

#### **Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens**

http://john23rd.com/ https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/



#### First Sunday of Advent 1 December 2019

#### Reflection on the Readings

Dear sisters & brothers of Christ,

As we commence our new Liturgical Year this day, let us turn our minds & hearts to our preparation for Christ's coming - at Christmas, and at the End of Time. Let us ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon us, individually and as a Church, to strengthen our witnessing of the Truth to our world.

May this Advent season be a fruitful time of prayer and renewal for us all!



- 1. Fr Thomas' Farewell will be after the Vigil Mass on Saturday 18 January 2020. Let us keep in our prayer over our festive season, as he prepares for his new ministry in the Parish of Richmond.
- 2. Credit Card Payments: Please remember to update the parish office with any changes to your card. Please call the office if your card has expired or been compromised. This will allow your payments to continue without interruption.
- 3. There are a number of important Christmas announcements. Please read page 6 of the bulletin.
- 4. The Family Christmas Mass will be held on the 24th December at St Marks College Hub. The nativity story will start at 6.30pm and followed by Mass at 7.00pm.

#### **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 with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

2nd Tue 7:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

1st Fri 7:30pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Fridays after the 9am Mass

#### Rosary & Novena prayer

*Tues* 7:00pm except for 2nd Tues as this will be a novena mass

#### Sacrament of the Sick

1st Sat 9:00am Mass or upon request

#### Divine Office

Sun 8:15am after 7.30am Mass 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

#### Praise & Worship

3rd Sat 7:30pm SJ23rd Prayer Group

#### SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.

#### COELIACS

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

#### 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."

DE	С	THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
Mon	2	9.00am - Mass 7:30pm - Christian Meditation in Parish Office Conference Room
Tue	3	Saint Francis Xavier (M) 9.00am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary & Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	4	9.00am - Mass 10:00am - Mass at Holy Cross
Thu	5	9.00am - Mass
Fri	6	9.00am - Mass
Sat	7	Saint Ambrose (M) 9.00am - Mass
Sun	8	12:00pm - Baptism please pray for Georgia

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

#### First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

#### The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9

#### R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.** 

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **R.** 

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **R.** 

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **R.** 

#### Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84.8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

#### Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

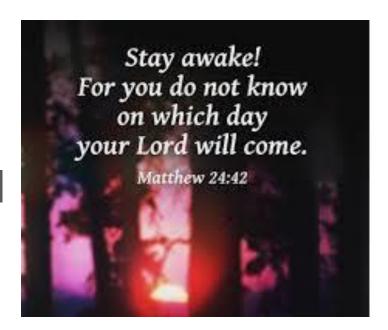
'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Communion Antiphon**

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.





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.

#### PARISH OFFICE

#### Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

#### Office Contacts

(02) 8883 5981 (0423 160 567 AH Emergency) 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens, 2768 (St Mark's College Admin Office)

#### **MAILING**

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768

#### **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

#### **STAFF**

#### Secretary

Tanya Gatt

⊠ secretary@john23rd.org.au

#### Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

accounts@john23rd.org.au

#### **Sacramental Coordinator:**

Helen Zammit

⊠ admin@john23rd.org.au

#### **Business Manager:**

John McCartney (pro bono)

⋈ businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

#### **SACRAMENTS**

#### Baptism by appointment

Sun 12:00pm

#### Reconciliation (First Rite)

Sat 5:00 - 5:45pm

And after any weekday masses

## 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

#### Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare to connect people with support and services to build strong foundations for self-sufficiency, fulfilling family relationships and brighter futures. Please give generously to the Bishop's C h r i s t m a s A p p e a l v i a yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

#### Plenary Council 2020

The Plenary Council invites people to continue to participate in the journey towards the Council sessions in 2020. There are many opportunities to engage in the "Listening and Discernment" phase by participating in small group sessions within the Diocese. Ask you priests or Deanery Representatives for session dates in parishes and deaneries or contact the Pastoral Planning Office on 8838 3441.

## CatholicCare Blacktown Neighbourhood Aid Volunteers Needed

Blacktown Neighbour Aid, a program with CatholicCare, is looking for volunteers to support our senior clients in the Blacktown area to remain living independently in their own home. If you feel you would like to make a positive difference to other's lives in this way, please contact the Manager, Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or email deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au.

#### The Epiphany Pilgrimage

The Epiphany Pilgrimage, through the Blue Mountains, is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk 110km through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland, celebrating the Christmas season with each parish along the way. Registration and details epiphanypilgrimage.org and facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage mage

#### St Bernadette's Lalor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette and Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments every Wednesday evening at 7pm, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office on 0 2 9 6 7 2 4 0 3 7 or admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au

#### Upper Blue Mountains Adoration Chapel

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish in the Upper Blue Mountains has opened an Adoration Chapel at St Canice's Church, Katoomba. If you would like further information or would like to sign up for a weekly hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, please call the parish office on 02 4782 2804.

## 4 December: Bishop Vincent PNG Visit Public Forum

Bishop Vincent will speak on his recent visit to Papua New Guinea as part of a public forum organised by the Justice and Peace office of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Wednesday 4 December 5.30pm for a 6pm start at The Polding Centre, Level 8, 133 Liverpool St Sydney. The event is free, but registration is essential via https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-forum-catholic-reflection-on-port-moresby-offshore-detention-tickets-83109840771

## 28 December: Kellyville Parish Mass of the Holy Innocents

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, is holding their annual Mass of the Holy Innocents on 28 December at 11am. Fr David Blowey OFM Conv will celebrate Mass, followed by a Rosary procession to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Lunch will be available and please bring a plate to share. For enquiries, please contact the parish office on (02) 9629 2595.

#### Other Notices

#### **Positions Vacant**

Diocesan News

Faith Formation Team Leader – St Agatha's, Pennant Hills (Diocese of Broken Bay) - until 9 December. For more details, please visit https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/positions-vacant

#### 7 December: Order of Malta Annual Lourdes Day Mass

The Order of Malta will be celebrating their annual Lourdes Day Mass on Satuday 7 December at 10am at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and the Chaplains of the Order will celebrate Mass and bless the congregation, with vials of Lourdes water to be distributed. For more info, or if you need assistance, contact 9331 8477,info@smom.org.au or macolmi@bigpond.net.au

## 17 December: Handel's Messiah at St Patrick's Cathedral

To end their inaugural year, River City Voices is proud to present an intimate performance of Handel's Messiah for Western Sydney audiences. The performance will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 17 Dec at 7.30pm. For info and to purchase tickets, visit <a href="https://www.classikon.com/concert/river-city-voices-parramatta-2019-december-17/">https://www.classikon.com/concert/river-city-voices-parramatta-2019-december-17/</a>

## 28 December: Feast of the Holy Family celebration

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth invite families and young people aged 18 to 35 to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on 28 December at the Our Lady Queen of Poland Convent in Marayong. Mass will be held at 3pm, with Adoration from 4.30pm. RSVP to Sr Paula by 26 December on 0449 656406 or vocationscfn@gmail.com.

#### Parish Pastoral/Ministry Corner

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

#### ⇒ Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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

We continue to ask for host families to pray the rosary at home and request our Blessed Mother's intercessions. Pick up the statue and pass on to the next family after a week.

- 7:00pm Tuesday nights Rosary and novena prayers at church. Join us and take part in reciting the rosary and novena prayers
- 7:30pm 2nd Tuesday each month Novena mass after rosary prayers with exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Families on the roster, please remember your roster. If unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva

"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

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The St Vincent De Paul Conference wish to draw on your generosity once more asking for your assistance in providing items of food, toiletries, and small gifts for our Christmas hampers in order to help those in our Parish who are in need of our support. A list of acceptable items can be found below:

Canned meat (ham, corned beef, sausages, etc), rice, pasta, pasta sauce, one litre oil, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, Christmas cake, pudding, mince pies, fruit juice, biscuits, custard, coffee, tea, milk, and all toiletries.

Whether you wish to donate a complete hamper for a family or individual items , please ensure that enviro bags are used as determined by OHNS.

Donations of enviro bags will be very much appreciated. It has been decided that the cut off date for all donations will be the 30th November. The delivery of hampers will take place between the 15th and 20th of December.

Thank you for your continuous generosity and great support, we are constantly blessed with, in order to continue our mission. Many blessings to you all.

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights											
Dec	3	10	17	24	31						
	Paguinto S	Drummond	Pangilinan	Sebastian	Sebastian						
Jan	7	14	21	28							
	Lopez	Lozada	Jacob	Tangunan							
Feb	4	11	18	25							
1.60	Richard	Sebastian	available	Jacob							
Mar	3	10	17	24	31						
IVIAI	available	available	Richard	Jacob	available						
Apr	7	14	21	28							
	available	Sebastian	available	Jacob							
May	5	12	19	26							
	available	available	Sebastian	Jacob							

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 emcipi85@yahoo.com.au

#### **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

#### ⇒ Helpers Party

For all parishioners who help out in the parish with their time and talent i.e. different ministry members, gardeners, choir groups, cleaners, collectors etc, save the date 7th December 2019, 7pm after the 6pm Vigil.

**RSVP** to Techie Sarlabus via email techiesarlabus@gmail.com or SMS 0438 201 436 by **1st December 2019**.

#### ⇒ Cake Angels

Our Angels would like to thank all our parishioners. Your continued support and generous contribution in the Cake Stall endeavour is greatly appreciated. We raised \$1744.95 where all proceeds will go to help with church expenses.

Continued membership and assistance is always welcome. Please contact Madeleine Huang *cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com* if interested to be part of this lively group.

#### ⇒ Prayer Group

Advent - A time to prepare for Christmas day! Come and join us on Friday evenings at 6.30pm in the Parish Conference Room. Everyone is welcome. Call Pauline 0407417039 for more information.

# Chairman Gary Lee Dep Chairman Bernadette Virwani Secretary Julienne Crasto Members Bing Catabas Chris Drummond Nanette Gamboa Margaret Harrison

#### Collection process FOR COLLECTORS:

First Collection will occur after the Homily and which will be brought to the altar during the offertory procession

The County Collection will be after the first and wil

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.

#### Special intentions

#### Recently Deceased:

Patricia Verdera, Teofilo Adelante

#### Deceased:

Charles Briffa, Maria Tranganza, Teofila P. Javate

#### Anniversary:

Eileen De Gabriele, Elpidid Beltran, Renato Jay Dela Cruz, Dianne Hockings

Sick: Names published with permission.

Brian McCunnie, Colleen McCunnie, Deidre Thomson, Benjamin Munson Jr, Jim Daley, Anika, Deacon Rudi, Virginia Santos, Fr John, Gloria Buosi, Hazel Masher, Pat Doyle, Praba Daniel, Anshu Mala Nand, Raymond Lanzona, Kim Greg Marcellana, Dung Phan, Norbert Mascarenhas, Violeta Javate, Florentina Elsisura, Ramon Minosa, Kalayani, Bernie Presto, Elmo Joachim, Elizabeth Candame, Perla Magculang, Karam Matte, Karam Sarsam, Sophie Deleon

#### Thanksgiving:

Ronaldo, Kristine, Maria, Ramon, Vincenzo Zamora

#### **Church Funnies**



#### **OUR PARISH SCHOOLS**

#### **Holy Cross Primary**

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood Principal: Marina Hardy

**2** (02) 8664 7100

Maria 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

#### In Memoriam

#### ⇒ COLUMBARIUM

We have opened this up to parishioners from other parishes so there is an opportunity for them to have their ashes placed in church grounds, beside a church where family and friends may conveniently visit after mass.

There are still opportunities to sponsor items for the garden eg plants and other landscaping costs.

#### ⇒ MEMORIAL WALL PLAQUES

The wall in front of the church is devoted to the memory of our deceased family and friends, especially if they are overseas. The plaques cost \$250.00.

Please email for any queries to <a href="mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au">businessmanager@john23rd.org.au</a>





#### Parish Notice



We are in urgent need for volunteers to assist in our Parish's different ministries

#### ⇒ Children's liturgy facilitators

We have only a few facilitators able to take these Sunday sessions. If you are interested and able to assist in facilitating these 15-20mins sessions during the 10.30am mass, please contact Helen Zammit on 8883 5981.

#### ⇒ Sacrament of Baptism facilitators

We require assistance at the children's baptismal rites during Sundays 12pm. For interested parties please contact Krizzia Samonte on krizzia.samonte@gmail.com or the Parish Office.

#### ⇒ SRE Teachers

If you could spare an hour during weekdays to spread God's word teaching scriptures to children, we need you. We currently have 4 public primary schools and a high school in our parish where we hold scripture classes during school hours for 30 minutes during Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information call Asoki 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814. Training and resources will be provided.

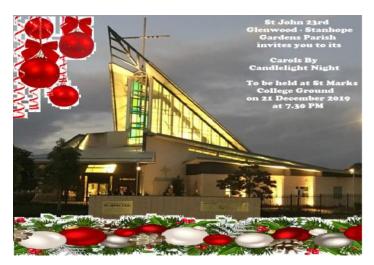
#### CHRISTMAS FESTIVITY

#### 16 - 24 December, 6am - Mass of the Rooster

Come and join us for a 9 day novena in preparation for the Advent season. Bring a plate to share for breakfast after mass.



#### 21 December, 7:30pm - SJ23rd Christmas Carols



#### Family Christmas Mass

The Family Christmas Mass will be held at 7.00pm preceded by the Nativity story at 6.30 pm on 24th December at St. Marks College Hub. We will be having a short play of the Nativity story before the mass commences as we have done in the past.

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

- play characters from the Nativity story
- narrate the Nativity story
- Volunteers for logistics, supplies and safe-keeping of costumes;
- Greeters and Collectors

Practice sessions are scheduled on the following days:

7th December, Saturday 2:00 - 4.00 pm at Church

14th December, Sunday, Saturday 2.00 - 4.00 pm at St. Marks College Hub

24<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday 4.30 - 6.00 pm at St. Marks College Hub

Please contact **Helen Festejo** on *mhsestejo@gmail.com* or 0401 671 665 for more details if your child can take part or if you can assist in any way for the Nativity story at the Family Christmas Mass by 7th December or come to 1st practice session on Saturday, 7th December at 2:00 pm.



#### **YOUTH CORNER**

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

The Youth Ministry of SJXXIII which consists of a range of youth groups like Blaze, CRL, and YFC has one mission and that is to facilitate the understanding and growth of the faith of teens and young adults by means of music, games, discussion, prayer and reflection while exploring the catholic perspective on social issues representing the cultural diversities within our parish

We're aiming to have a central hub for the young people of our parish. A place where the various youth groups can run their youth nights out and a place where a community of young people can continually grow. To achieve this, with the blessings from Fr John McSweeney and the parish council, we have begun raising funds to renovate the space below our church to create a youth hub.

Please check out this link <u>https://www.gofundme.com/sj23-youth-space</u> and help us to achieve this goal.

#### **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**.

#### 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.

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

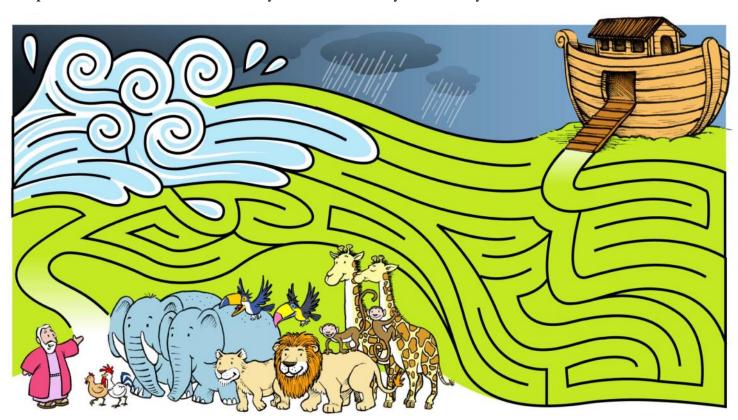
When: 3rd Sunday

Praise & Worship **Time:** 4.00pm to 5.30pm

YFC (Youth for Christ)

When: 3rd Sundays of the month

Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.



		Stay awake, you must be ready															
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Noah

ready

swept

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thief

#### 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



A Tradition of Care & Concern Pre-paid funerals available 340 Old Northern Rd. Castle Hill **2** 9659 0900 www.hillsfamilyfunerals.com.au

## OZ DRAFTER

For your PLANS and DRAWING needs Also offered: Assistance with -

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**Malta Travel Tours** Tasmania: March 2020. Only 3 couples left! Be quick and call Monica Ledger - 9896 0712 or 0414 859386.

<mark>Gorgeous Hawaii: September</mark> 2020. Join us on a hilarious escorted tour: Honolulu - Pearl Harbour Polynesian Culture - Maui - Hilo -Kona - Kauai. Call Paul Vassallo: 9666 6684, Mob: 0416 951502.

NEW TOUR: East Canada & USA: July 2020. Boston - Montreal Quebec - Ottawa - Kingston -Toronto - Niagara Falls - Washington -New York. Call Charlie - 9631 2689 or 0412 523893.

You get the lot: flights, hotels, food, touring, transfers and insurance.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP 3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm SJ23rd Prayer Group

**ADVERTISE HERE** 



St Vincent de Paul Society Meets 2nd and 4th good works Thursday at 7:00pm





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