



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



**The Baptism of  
the Lord  
12 January 2020**

### Reflection on the Readings

Let us focus on Jesus' mystical experience as he emerged from the waters of the River Jordan.

'Suddenly the heavens opened.' Heaven and earth are communicating again! If heaven appeared closed to humankind it is now open again. 'And he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.' Jesus experienced 'like a dove does' – a sense of being hovered over by the Divine presence 'in dove-like fashion'.

'And a voice spoke from Heaven: "This is my Son, the beloved, my favour rests on him".' In the Jewish tradition this sort of intuitive sensation is called the bat qol, the daughter of a voice, a whisper echoing heaven.

Each of us has shared in the baptism of Our Lord, been incorporated into His baptism. Divine love and power streamed from heaven to earth into each one of you; the Holy Spirit hovered gently over you; and deep down, at the intimate wellspring of your life, the Divine voice was heard whispering:

'You are my beloved daughter' or 'You are my beloved son,' 'My favour rests on you.'

We could pause for a moment to resolve to recall each morning the heavenly whisper at our baptism and then re-echo it in our lives.

© Fr Michael Tate;

### 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

### BUSHFIRE APPEAL AND FR THOMAS' FAREWELL

We are holding a special collection this weekend for a farewell gift for Fr Thomas. However, he has requested that we rather hold the special collection for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. We have compromised and the first \$500 raised will go to Fr Thomas, with the balance to Vinnies. We ask you to give generously.

### SUGGESTION BOX

**We welcome your comments and  
constructive suggestions.**

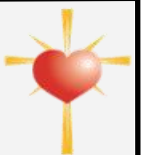
### COELIACS

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."*



JAN	THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
Mon 13	9:00am - Mass
Tue 14	9:00am - Mass
Wed 15	9:00am - Mass
Thu 16	9:00am - Liturgy of the Word
Fri 17	<i>Saint Anthony (F)</i> 9:00am - Mass
Sat 18	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass 7:30pm - Farewell Get Together for Fr Thomas
Sun 21	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

## FAITH FORMATION

### ⇒ Our Lady of Perpetual Help

*Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke your powerful name, the protection of the living and the salvation of the dying. Purest Mary, let your name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, Blessed Lady, to rescue me whenever I call on you. In my temptations, in my needs, I will never cease to call on you, ever repeating your sacred name, Mary, Mary. What a consolation, what sweetness, what confidence fills my soul when I utter your sacred name or even only think of you! I thank the Lord for having given you so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering your name. Let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you Mother of Perpetual Help. Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me and grant me the favor I confidently ask of you. (Then say three Hail Marys).*



### Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

Jan	7	14	21	28	
	Lopez	Lozada	Jacob	Tangunan	
Feb	4	11	18	25	
	Richard	Sebastian	Yunon M	Jacob	
Mar	3	10	17	24	31
	Peiris	Erasmus B	Richard	Jacob	available
Apr	7	14	21	28	
	available	Sebastian	available	Jacob	
May	5	12	19	26	
	available	available	Sebastian	Jacob	

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

- 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

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.

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

If you want the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home contact Bart Sarlabus [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com) or Melva Paguinto [emcipi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emcipi85@yahoo.com.au)

*"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*

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

As has been announced during masses, Fr Thomas will be moving on to another parish. You are all invited on Saturday, 18th January, 7:00pm after the vigil mass to bid a fond farewell to Fr Thomas.

Please bring a plate to share.



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](mailto: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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL		
	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Members</b>
	Gary Lee	Bing Catabas
	<b>Dep Chairman</b>	Chris Drummond
	Bernadette Virwani	Nanette Gamboa
	<b>Secretary</b>	Margaret Harrison
	Julienne Crasto	

### Collection process FOR COLLECTORS:

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.

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Julietta Negado Guia, Gabriel Rehaut

### Deceased:

Alfredo Ong Jr, Alejandro Diaz,  
Rosario Diaz, Iluminada Ranola,  
Manuel Ranola, Lorna Ranola, Rocco  
Agostino, River August Maglaya, Felina  
Maglaya, Pol Maglaya, Bibiano Villaneva

### Anniversary:

Norma 'Baby' Lorenzo, Martha Livera,  
Leonor. De Leon,

### Sick: Names published with permission.

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

### Thanksgiving:

Me Ribargoso, Ronaldo, Kristine, Maria,  
Ramon, Vincenzo, Ziva Zamora

## 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  
[businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)



## Church Funnies



**SERMON SURVIVAL TIP:** *If during the sermon, you drift off to a peaceful slumber... and your wife gently nudges you, pretend you were praying and just quietly say.... "AMEN"*

## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

## 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 <https://www.gofundme.com/sj23-youth-space> 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 teen.

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](mailto: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

✉ For all youth ministry enquiries, email us at [youth@john23rd.com](mailto:youth@john23rd.com)



### Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### First Reading

*Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7*

*Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 28:1-4, 9-10*

**R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**

The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

### Second Reading

*Acts 10:34-38*

*God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

*cf Mark 9:8*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Matthew 3:13-17*

*When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

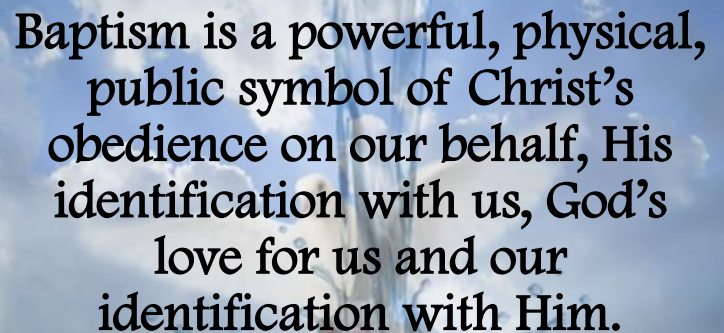
As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

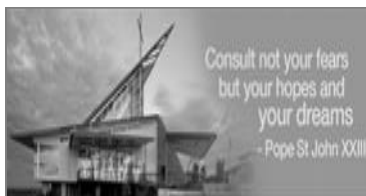
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



**Baptism is a powerful, physical,  
public symbol of Christ's  
obedience on our behalf, His  
identification with us, God's  
love for us and our  
identification with Him.**



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](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)

#### Asst. Priest:

Fr Thomas Bui  
✉ [FrThomas@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrThomas@john23rd.org.au)

#### Deacon:

Rodrigo Rupac  
✉ [DeaconRudy@john23rd.org.au](mailto:DeaconRudy@john23rd.org.au)

### STAFF

#### Secretary

Tanya Gatt  
✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

#### Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai  
✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)

#### Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit  
✉ [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

#### Business Manager:

John McCartney (*pro bono*)  
✉ [businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish)

## Diocesan News

### Position Vacant

Liturgy Administrative Support Assistant (Part-time) - Office for Worship

The role is two days per week, and will initially be based in Blacktown and moving to Parramatta later in the year.

Please send your application to [parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org](mailto:parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org).

Applications close by Friday 17 January 2020.

*Only candidates with the right to work in Australia, and who are prepared to undergo appropriate background checks, should apply for this position.*

### 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 your priests or Deanery Representatives for session dates in parishes and deaneries or contact the Pastoral Planning Office on 8838 3441.

### 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.

### Office for Worship Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

The Office for Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held again next year, commencing early February 2020. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 8838 3456 or [anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org](mailto:anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org).

### 28 January: Annual Red Mass

Bishop Vincent Long and Fr Bob Bossini warmly invite members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass on 28 January at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served after Mass. Confirm attendance and any dietary requirements by 20 January to (02) 8839 8411 or [events@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:events@stpatscathedral.com.au).



# WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS

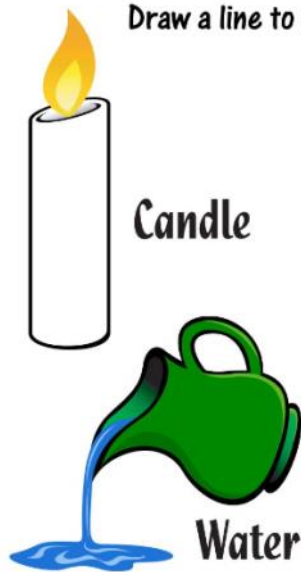
## FEBRUARY 2020



Tuesday 11th February, 10:30am

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish - St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown

Draw a line to connect each symbol with its correct meaning.



*Symbolizes the Holy Spirit*

*Symbolizes life, cleansing and growth*

*Symbolizes purity and freedom from sin*

*Symbolizes the emergence from darkness into the light*



You are my own dear son

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

Baptised

dove  
powerful

excited  
prayed

fire  
sandals

heaven  
sky

John  
water

pleased



**JESUS' BAPTISM**



*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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**0403 342 265**

[julia.stella@lsre.com.au](mailto:julia.stella@lsre.com.au)

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Email: [info@mantislandscape.com.au](mailto:info@mantislandscape.com.au)

Contact: 0434494450

**Malta Travel Tours**

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

**Gorgeous Hawaii: September 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.

**ADVERTISE HERE**



**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**  
**3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm**

*SJ23rd Prayer Group*



**St Vincent de Paul Society**

Meets 2nd and 4th

Thursday at 7:00pm

*good works*



Join and be  
part of the

**Cake Angels**

contact Madeline Huang  
[cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com)

**ADVERTISE HERE**

SJ 23

**BLAZE**  
YOUTH GROUP