

Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

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



Presentation of the Lord 2 February 2020

Reflection on the Readings

In a time (in the Western world at least) when there seems to be a growing gap between the old and the young, it is good to reflect on this Gospel incident. Is this the model for overcoming the distance between young and old in our culture? Can the young, like Mary, listen to the wisdom of tradition from an elder? Can the old like Simeon still be open to a moment of serendipity mediated by the young?

The answer is: 'Yes, when young and old come together around Jesus.' As Pope Francis remarks of this encounter: 'Jesus is at the centre.' (Homily 2 Feb 2018)

At whatever age we find ourselves, Mary is only too willing to place Jesus in our arms to fulfil our hopes and our yearnings. Perhaps we could pause for a moment to accept the gift of Jesus placed in our arms and hearts so that we can say with Simeon:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace...'

A young woman, still in her teens, a newly-wed cradling her newborn son in her arms, places that baby in the arms of a very old stranger who embraces her child with all the fervour of a now fulfilled hope. © Fr Michael Tate

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

- We welcome Fr. Zvonimir Gavranovic to our Parish this weekend. Fr Zvon has been a priest for nearly 48 years, and has served in over 30 different parishes. He comes to us with a vast array of experience and a keen pastoral sense. I look forward to working with Fr Zvon in the years ahead, as we all of us together, bring about the kingdom in this part of the
- Given the very recent outbreak of coronavirus which is affecting the world, I think it prudent that we suspend the distribution of the Precious Blood until further notice. Let us offer up this spiritual sacrifice for those affected and the medical personnel who are fighting this outbreak!

• As the year gets fully underway, let's continue to pray for each other, so that we feel supported in our Faith and its Proclamation.

God Bless you all!

Fr John

NB: The Liturgy Committee is postponing its sausage sizzle fundraiser to the following week because of this weekend's heatwave.

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FEI	В	THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
Mon	3	9:00am - Liturgy of the Word with Communion	
Tue	4	9:00am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help	
Wed	5	St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr 9:00am - Mass	
Thu	6	St Paul Miki and Companions (M) 9:00am - Mass	
Fri	7	9:00am - Mass	
Sat	8	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass	
Sun	9	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 12.00pm - Baptism please pray for Antonio, Leonardo, Jacinta and Harvey 6:00pm - Mass	

Mass Times

Mon - Fri 9:00am also Wed 10:00am

Holy Cross Primary school term only 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

1st Fri 7:30pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus

2nd Tue 7:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Fridays after the 9am Mass 1st Saturday after the 9am Mass

Rosary & Novena prayer

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

Sacrament of the Sick

9:00am Mass or upon request

Divine Office

Sun 8:15am after 7.30am Mass 7:30pm Christian Meditation Mon Group in Parish Office Conference Room led by Frances Pegrem (0417 406715)

6:30pm led by Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group in the Parish Office Conference Room

Praise & Worship

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



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."

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											
P	Feb	4	11	18	25								
		Richard	Sebastian	Yunon M	Jacob								
	Mar	3	10	17	24	31							
		Peiris	Erasmo B	Richard	Jacob	Manoj							
١	Apr	7	14	21	28								
١		Thirimanne	Sebastian	Shalini	Jacob								
1	May	5	12	19	26								
d t	May	Thirimanne	De Jesus	Sebastian	Jacob								
t		2	9	16	23	30							
), <i>y</i>	Jun	available	Shalini	Richards	available	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 or Melva Paguinto 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



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.

LITURGY

⇒ Liturgical Ministry

Some of our Church's sound system needs an upgrade. The Liturgy Team will be holding a BBQ Fundraiser to raise funds for the purchase of some much needed equipment. Liturgy Team are targeting to raise \$4,500.

Fund raiser will be held on: Saturday 8th February 2020 after Vigil Mass Sunday 9th February after 10.30 mass

Please come and enjoy a delicious BBQ and help raise funds.



RCIA

This year we have Evan Jones who is preparing to be received in Our Catholic Community. We will have "The Rite of Initiation" at the Vigil Mass on Saturday, 1st February at 6.00pm. We request the parish community to pray for Evan and support him through his final weeks of preparation.

First Collection will occur after the Homily and which will be

Thank You RCIA Team



Chairman Gary Lee Dep Chairman Bernadette Virwani Secretary Julienne Crasto

Members Bing Catabas Chris Drummond Nanette Gamboa Margaret Harrison

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.

The Second Collection will occur after the offertory and will be brought forward during the Holy, Holy

Collection process FOR COLLECTORS:

brought to the altar during the offertory procession

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 fover 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:

Teresa Diamonon, June Rawstron

Deceased:

Ildefomsa Capapas, Emelio Capapas

Anniversary:

Eroll Sancouci, Domina Fernandes, Basil Cherry

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

Ajith & Preema Lobo

Church Funnies



OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood Principal: Miss Marina Hardy

2 (02) 8664 7100

≥ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

John XXIII and St Mark's College 160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens Principal: Dr Peter Webster

2 (02) 9852 0500

stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

2 (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 e.g. plants and other landscaping costs.

Extra... Extra... Extra...

A single niche in the sold-out St Mary MacKillop wall has become available (H6). Please contact business manager@john23rd.org.au

⇒ 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



Parish News

⇒ TAP n GO

You don't have cash? You now have a new way of contributing to the upkeep of our parish – Tap n Go.

The terminal installed in the front foyer has been set at \$5.00. Proceeds will go towards special projects.

Our special project at the moment is to support our Liturgy Team's fundraising for the upgrade of our sound system. If you wish to contribute more then tap more than once.

The terminal near Our Lady's statue is currently set at \$2.00. Proceeds from this terminal will enable us to purchase more candles

Thank you for your generosity.

⇒ ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is not that far away (26 February). Please bring your palms from last Palm Sunday for processing into this year's ashes. A box has been placed in the front foyer.



\Rightarrow ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Dear Parishioners,

The St. Vincent de Paul Society, Stanhope Gardens Conference would like to thank you for your very wonderful generosity to our Christmas Appeal.

We received \$5,002.90 in cash and credit card donations aside from a great quantity of gifts and food items. With these we were able to distribute generous Christmas hampers to the 54 families we serve comprising of 87 adults and 80 children. Due to your wonderful generosity, we had a lot of gifts leftover so on the 24th of December we loaded a borrowed trailer and a car with those gifts and food items and one of our members and his wife and son took them to the Lithgow Evacuation Centre for the bush fire evacuees.

A shelf-full of men's toiletries was distributed to the homeless and we still have plenty of non-perishable food items to serve those in need for the first part of this year. Again we would like to express our deep gratitude to the community for the support you provide us at Vinnies throughout the year which enables us to serve our community as well as other neighbouring communities.

God bless you all.



Entrance Antiphon

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. our praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of te covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, say the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing wen he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the children of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:7-10

R. Who is this king of glory? Is it the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory ${\bf R}$

Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war. **R**

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! $\bf R$

Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war. ${\bf R}$

Second Reading

Hebrew 2:14-18

He had to be made like us in all things.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers and sisters so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation, he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

I uke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

GospelI uke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your saving power.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he

Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

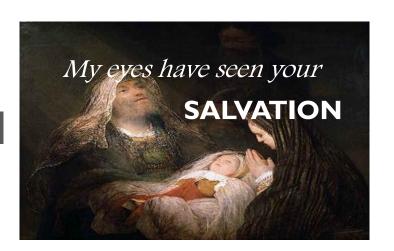
There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.





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

Positions Vacant

- Volunteers Mamre Creche CatholicCare
- Office Manager Tribunal of the Catholic Church (NSW and ACT), Diocese of Parramatta – Applications close 3 February

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

CatholicCare Blacktown Neighbour 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.

6 February: Plenary Council 2020 Diocesan Session

You are invited to attend a Plenary Council 2020 Listening and Discernment session on 6 February from 10.30am to 1pm at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown. At this session, you will have the opportunity to select and explore one of the six Themes for Discernment. Morning tea will be provided. To RSVP, please contact tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org.

8 – 9 February: Honouring the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita

Long after slavery was officially abolished, the practice not only continues but thrives, with millions of people forced to perform labour through coercion, intimidation or deceit. On the weekend of 8 and 9 February, we celebrate the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron of Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. We are encouraged to pray for all those affected by the crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking, and for the people who volunteer and work for the eradication of these crimes.

February 2020: Greystanes Parish Biblical Studies Part 2

Throughout the month of February, Fr Joseph Lam from Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, will run a series of biblical studies on Prophetic Literature in the Old Testament. Sessions will be held at the parish every Thursday in February and on 5 March from 7.30pm to 9pm. Registrations are essential by parishoffice@olap.org.au, where you can also obtain the recommended reading list.

9 February 2020: Pastoral Planning Alpha Team Training Workshop

The Pastoral Planning Office is running a training day in the Alpha Catholic program at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown, Sunday 9 February, 9.30am – 4.30pm. The workshop will look at where Alpha fits in the faith formation process in a Parish. To register, and for more information, please contact Lisa in the Pastoral Planning Office on 8838 3497 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

11 February 2020: World Day of the Sick Mass

Diocesan News

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick will be celebrated in the Diocese of Parramatta on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, St Patrick's Church, Blacktown at 10.30am. The Mass will include the Sacramental Rite of Anointing of the Sick and Prayers for Healing. Please RSVP to Marisa VanderHout on 8838 3460 or marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org to assist with seating and catering.



OTHERS

Australian Church Bushfire Response

Australia is currently facing an unprecedented bushfire crisis in many parts of the country. The Australian Catholic Bishops have announced that special collections will be taken at Masses during the Australia Day weekend to support affected communities. They have also urged Catholics to pray constantly for those affected, for those fighting the fires and for an end to the bushfires. To access prayer resources, make a donation or for more info, visit www.parracatholic.org/bushfires

Catholic Healthcare

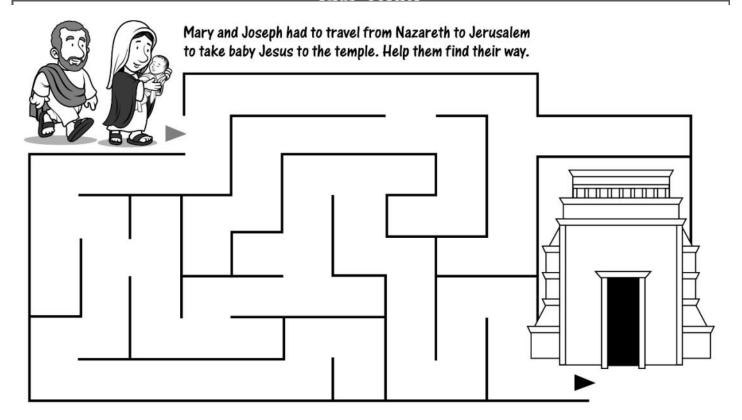
Government-funded Home Care Packages. Catholic Healthcare's local Care Advisors can work with you to create a customised support plan. Their in-home services include gardening, shopping, meal preparation, transport and nursing. Get a quote on 1300 734 350

6 February: Holy Hour for Vocations

Youth aged 18 to 35 are invited to join the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for their Holy Hour for Vocations on Thursday 6 February at 7pm at the Holy Spirit Convent, Plumpton. A meal will be served afterwards. To RSVP, please contact Sr Paula on 0449 656406 or vocationscsfn@gmail.com.

4 March: Shaping the Future of the Catholic Church Symposium

The Implementation Advisory Group (established by ACBC and Catholic Religious Australia) are hosting a symposium on 'Shaping the Future of the Catholic Church' with three international experts on Wednesday 4 March from 1pm to 5pm. The experts will address numerous topics including the Ecclesiology of Vatican II; Theology and the Sexual Abuse Crisis; and Participative Engagement and Structures in a Missionary and Synodal Church. RSVP, tickets and event details can be found at https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid =584298&.



	Lord, I am your servant																
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peace

sacrifice

Simeon

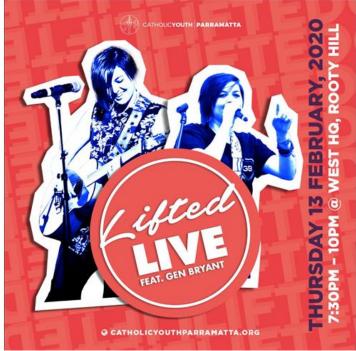
servant

Spirit









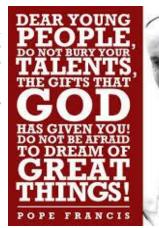
BLAZE

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.

BLAZE YOUTH LEADERS

Andrew Gorkic Neville Reynolds Rebecca Reynolds RJ Samonte Vidya Jolly



CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

When: 3rd Sunday Praise & Worship night

Time: 4.00pm to 5.30pm **CRL YOUTH LEADERS**

Rojith de Silva Nimeshi Fernando

YFC (Youth for Christ)

When: 3rd Sundays of the month

Youth Ministry

SJXXIII Youth is looking for volunteer youth facilitators who can commit to assisting with our BLAZE fortnightly sessions. Any enquiries can be sent to youth@john23rd.com.au.

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



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Malta Travel Tours

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

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.

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

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



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