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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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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.

LOOK GREAT

FEEL GREAT!

10-WEEK

OUTDOOR GROUP FITNESS

Starts 07 March 2020
RSVP 0438 288 634

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SJ 23

BLAZE

YOUTH GROUP

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

 **SAINT JOHN XXIII**
PRAISE AND WORSHIP
3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm
SJ23rd Prayer Group

 **Cake Angels**
Join and be part of the
contact Madeline Huang
cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com

The Holy Land Experience


12 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS. DEPARTS SAT 9TH JAN 2021
Dead Sea (2 nights) • Sea of Galilee (4) • Haifa • Mt Carmel • Mt Tabor • Cana • Nazareth • Mt Beatitudes • Jerusalem (6) • Masada • Bethlehem • Optional 2 night Wonders of Petra Extension

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Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens
<http://john23rd.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>

St John XXIII
Catholic Church

Seventh Sunday ordinary time
23 February 2020

Reflection on the Readings

“Be Perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect”.

Today we must fight against a rather strong and perverse trend in our society that refuses to forgive those whom society deems bad people. Whether or not they are unredeemable is a matter for God to ultimately decide. The Christian response to others should always be the turning of the other cheek! Never easy; often impossible! But, because it *is* never easy and often impossible, this doesn't mean we give up trying to be holy as our God is holy. Rather, we keep trying to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect!

And in this way we live the example of love given to us by Jesus that we celebrate in the Eucharist an unconditional love unto the end!!

Sunday Mass Times

Sat	Vigil 6:00pm
Sun	7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

Weekday Mass Times

Mon	9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tues-Fri	9am Mass
+ Wed	10am (Holy Cross School during School Term)
+ Thurs	11.15am (Church, during school Term)

(+ School Masses please see “This Week in our Parish.”)

Masses for Special Occasions

1st Fri	7.30pm Novena Mass (Sacred Heart)
2nd Tues	7.30pm Novena Mass (Our Lady of Perpetual Help)
3rd Fri	11.00am Nursing Home Mass (ARV, The Ponds)

Exposition + Benediction

Fri after 9am Mass
1st Sat after 9am Mass
after the Novena Masses

Reconciliation

Sat: 5.00-5.45pm or upon request

Sacrament of the Sick


1st Sat	9.00am Mass
3rd Fri	11am (ARV Mass)

Devotions & Prayers

Sun 8.15am	Divine Office in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Mon 7.30pm	Christian Meditation Meeting (in Parish Meeting Room) Frances Pegram 0417 406715
Tues 7pm	Rosary and Novena Prayer in church except 2nd Tues
Fri 6.30pm	Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group (in Parish Meeting room) Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039

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 24	9:00am - Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tue 25	9:00am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed 26	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6.00am - Mass 9:00am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Thu 27	9:00am - Mass 11.45am - School Liturgy of the Word
Fri 28	9:00am - Mass
Sat 29	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass

MAR

Sun 1	Cake Angels Stall 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 12.00pm - Baptism please pray for Jun, Ziva and Valentino 6:00pm - Mass
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Parish Pastoral/Ministry Corner

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					
Feb	4	11	18	25	
	Richard	Sebastian	Yunon M	Jacob	
Mar	3	10	17	24	31
	Peiris	Erasmio B	Richard	Jacob	Manoj
Apr	7	14	21	28	
	Thirimanne	Sebastian	Shalini	Jacob	
May	5	12	19	26	
	Thirimanne	De Jesus	Sebastian	Jacob	
Jun	2	9	16	23	30
	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 after Mass.

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.



We are in urgent need for volunteers to assist in the following ministries in our Parish:

⇒ 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 the 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.

⇒ IT support.

We are looking for someone with SurveyMonkey experience to assist with our planned parish census in May. Contact John McCartney businessmanager@john23rd.org.au

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

Paying our debt together

First Collection – for the diocese. This is used for the support of priests and deacons 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; it is also needed to pay off our church mortgage.

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 emcpi85@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

⇒ Prayer Group 6:30pm Fridays

LENT begins with Ash Wednesday. So NOW is a good time to put aside some time and come and join us Friday evenings at 6.30 pm in the Church staff meeting room. Let us read and reflect on the Beautiful Gospels during Lent. EVERYONE IS WELCOME !!Call PAULINE 0407417039. Or just turn up !!

RCIA

This year we have Evan Jones who is preparing to be received in Our Catholic Community. We request the parish community to pray for Evan and support him through his final weeks of preparation.

Thank You RCIA Team

COMMUNITY BUILDING



To make way for our Liturgy Team's BBQ fundraiser, our first Cake Angel's stall for the year will now be on, **1st March during the morning masses**. Come and enjoy delicious treats and help raise funds for our parish.

Any contributions and assistance is always welcome. If you're interested to join the group please contact Mady Huang cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

⇒ VINNIES VAN

The Vinnies Van provides food, friendship, compassion and dignity to those experiencing homelessness and social isolation in the Mount Druitt and Parramatta areas. To become a volunteer of Vinnies Van you must be 16 years of age and over and available to attend induction training upon commencement.

For more information on joining the St John 23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds naomi1.rey@gmail.com

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. Instead of envelopes, the Parish Finance Committee encourages all parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions. This will be very helpful for Budgeting.

Notices

⇒ BARBEQUE FUNDRAISER

Our Liturgy Team is hosting a BBQ to raise funds for our sound systems.



⇒ LOST AND FOUND

We are collecting a big number of sunglasses and prescription glasses gathering in the sacristy. If you left one behind and think that we might have them, please talk to the ministers for assistance to see if it is yours. If there are no takers, we will put them in the charity box for glasses.



Dear Supporter,

This Lent as we remember the enormous sacrifice our Lord made on Good Friday please consider showing compassion to those in need.

Fleeing a home that is no longer safe is one of the most difficult decisions a person can make. It's one made that much harder when you are forced to live below the poverty line in a country you wish to make your home. Unfortunately it's a reality facing many people seeking asylum in Australia—people who often find it difficult to afford basic food, goods and groceries.

Jesuit Refugee Service provides food and essential items to people in this situation through our foodbank. There are roughly 120-140 people who come through our door for this support each month, representing over 350+ family members. The JRS foodbank offers a dignified experience for the people we serve by allowing people to do their own 'shopping' from our stocked shelves and fridges. People select what they want and need from us, in this way we provide a 'hand up' rather than a 'hand out.'

But we need your help.

Our stocks are low and so we are reaching out to the community to support us this Lent. We would like to invite your church to join JRS in our Lenten foodbank program: "6 Weeks of Lent - Give 6 Things". We have identified six staple items that are most frequently requested as shown on the attached flyer. Each week parishioners are encouraged to bring in the one designated item to deposit in a collection basket at church. Individual pictures of the six items are provided so that the collection basket can advertise what item is being collected each week.

Week 1	Basmati Rice
Week 2	Tuna in Oil
Week 3	Cooking Oil
Week 4	Tinned Tomatoes, Red Kidney Beans or Chickpeas
Week 5	Long Life Milk
Week 6	Pasta or Spaghetti

Please call Margaret Harrison on 0413 900 226 for more information.

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**.

BLAZE YOUTH LEADERS

Youth Coordinator - Amanda Lee - 0413 545 318
Assistant Youth Coordinator - Caitlin Green - 0425 579 594

Youth Ministry Team

Natasha Surjanto
Taylor Coutinho
Johanna Neve
Johnathan Soosaipillai
Joy Ragaza

Support Leaders

Andrew Gorkic
Rebecca Reynolds
Neville 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 - 0405 956 3210

Nimeshi Fernando -0417 101 009

YFC (Youth for Christ)

When: 1st Saturday of the month - YFC Australia

3rd Sundays of the month - YFC International

YFC YOUTH LEADERS

YFC International

Vince Erasmo - 0406 253 698

YFC Australia

Ben Lim - 0431 795 571



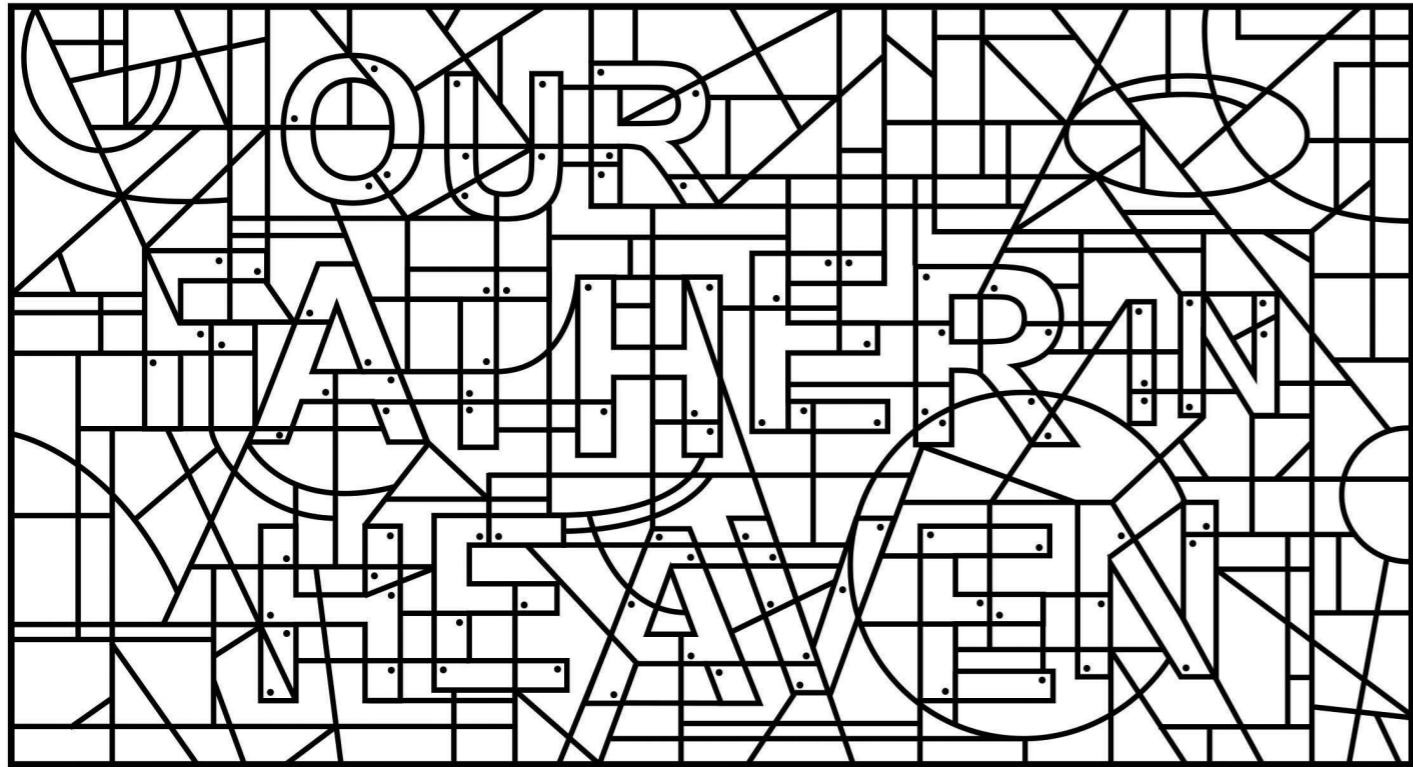
Youth Ministry

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.

✉ For all youth ministry enquiries, email us at youth@john23rd.com

Kids' Corner

Colour in the shapes with a dot to reveal who we are behaving like when we show love for those who are unkind to us.



W
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H

Love your enemies

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

cheek enemies greet lend love money pray
reward shirt tooth unbelievers wrong

Special intentions

Recently Deceased:
Vincente Nguyen Van Cung, Natividad Perez

Deceased:
Charles Briffa

Anniversary:
Domenico Surdich

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

Thanksgiving:
Flordeliza Limguangco - Labancz, Seth De Silva

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.

⇒ **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 buried overseas. The plaques cost \$250.00. Please email for any queries to businessmanager@john23rd.org.au



Parish Notices

⇒ **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. 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. 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.

⇒ **YOUNG ADULTS (OVER 18)**
Have you just entered the workforce? Prayerfully consider making regular contributions to the parish (and home). Even small contributions each week, through the Tap n Go or in the weekly collections, will help your parish. As fulltime working adults we need you to do your part. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

⇒ **2020 Lenten Program**
Are you looking for a way to prepare yourselves for our Lord's Passion? This Lent pray, share and live each Sunday's Gospel by joining or forming your own Lenten Discussion Groups. Discussions will be guided by a participant's book plus DVD and CDs entitled *Be Opened – A journey to new life* which will be provided. Information on the elements of the program can be found online www.lentprogram.com.

⇒ **OPEN DAY**
"Is your child starting school in 2021? John XXIII Catholic Primary School is holding an OPEN DAY on Tuesday, 3rd March, 2020, 9.30-10.30am. Take this opportunity to meet our College Leadership Team and visit our learning spaces. Applications for Kindergarten 2021 are to be submitted, in person, to the College Office during the enrolment period, Monday, 17th February to Friday, 13th March. Visit www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au to download an enrolment pack."

⇒ **THANK YOU!**
Thank you to everyone who helped with the mopping and cleaning up after the storms last weekend. Please take a moment to consider the area around where you sit and on your way into or out of mass. Look around and ask yourself, "Is there anything I can do to make our worship space more presentable?" Clean up leaves at the entrances, tidy up bulletins and tissues left behind in the pews. This is a great teaching opportunity for kids as they are always ready to help, with a little direction.

Church Funnies

"Whoever wrote the song 'Easy Like Sunday Morning' didn't take his kids to church on a regular basis."

Tim Hawkins

COELIACS

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

SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary
49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood
Principal: Louise O'Donnell
☎ (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
✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

PALM SUNDAY PALMS

Parishes have been advised by their florists that the palms they have supplied in the past are now on the endangered species list and may not be harvested. This means we cannot source appropriate palms for Palm Sunday. The following solution has been adopted – parishioners are asked to bring their own palms on Palm Sunday – but olive branches are just as acceptable. If people cannot source palms or olive branches, consider bringing an Australian gum tree branch.

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading
Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

You must love your neighbour, as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: ‘Speak to the whole community of the children of Israel and say to them: Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.’

“You must not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13, R. v.8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. R

It is God who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. R

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. R

As far as the east is from the west so far does God remove our sins. As a parent has compassion on their children, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. R

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 3:16-23

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn’t you realise that you were God’s temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise people’s thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, lif and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation
1 John 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!
Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

Gospel
Matthew 5:38-48

Ove your enemies

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘you have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked person no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer them the other as well; if someone takes you to law and would have your tunic, let them have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute; in this way you will be children of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest people alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers and sisters, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



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
MAILING
PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,
NSW 2768
CLERGY
Parish Priest:
Fr John McSweeney
✉ FrJohn@john23rd.org.au
Asst. Priest:
Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic
✉ Zvonimir@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 upon request

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

Diocesan News

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@olqp.org.au, where you can also obtain the recommended reading list.

26 February: Ash Wednesday Project Compassion Diocese Launch

Please join us for the launch of Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion in the Diocese on Ash Wednesday, 26 February, at St Patrick’s Cathedral. Mass will be held at 7.30pm, with the launch to follow. International Speaker, Florida Senis Rafer will be joining us. Hear her story and ask her questions about the life-changing program she works on in the Philippines. To RSVP by 19 February, contact marisa.vanderbout@parracatholic.org or call 8838 3461.

Starting March 2: Institute for Mission Themes of Faith

The Themes of Faith program invites participants to share conversation and reflection in small groups. Each group is accompanied by a mentor with a focus on different key life/faith theme each time. Sessions, arranged in two blocks of 5 Monday evenings, start on 2 March. To register, visit <https://www.ifm.org.au/tof> and for more information, contact Donnie or Fr Paul on (02) 9296 6369 or donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au or paul.roberts@ifm.org.au

Starting March 10: Institute for Mission Reflective Ministry Program

If you are serving in any ministry or hoping to get involved, this program gatherings will nurture your relationship with God and further equip your purpose and serving! Sessions start on Tuesday 10 March and will run every Tuesday night for twelve weeks. To register, please visit <https://www.ifm.org.au/reflective-ministry> or for more information, contact Sr Grace on (02) 9296 6369 or grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au

OTHERS

Australian Commemoration of the Sunday of the Word of God

The Bishops Commission for Liturgy is considering how the Church in Australia will mark the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God, established by Pope Francis and held on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. This celebration is held in Rome during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is celebrated much later in the year in Australia. The Commission has proposed another date be

established for the Sunday of the Word of God in Australia, and will provide recommendations to the Bishops Conference in May.

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.

28 February – 1 March: Women’s Lenten Retreat

Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa, is inviting women to attend a Lenten Retreat from 28 February at 6pm to 1 March at 4pm. If you are looking for some quiet time to prepare for Easter and reflect on the role of women in today’s Church and society, then this weekend is for you! For booking forms and payment, please contact (02) 4773 8338 or info@schoenstatt.org.au.

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>.

6 – 12 March: Gift of Ageing 6-Day Retreat

St Mary’s Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW, is hosting a six day retreat on the ‘Gift of Ageing: Awakening to God’s Surprising Gifts’ from 6 to 12 March. Sr Kerin Caldwell sgs will lead participants in themes such as less doing and more being and how am I coping with change. \$750 for 6 days or \$250 for weekend of 6 – 8 March. To RSVP, please contact (02) 4630 0233, email contact@towersretreat.org.au or visit www.towersretreat.org.au.

