



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



**Third Sunday  
of Lent  
15 March 2020**

### Message from Father John

Like the Samaritan woman we also have many 'husbands' = 'baals' (the gods of the pagans of Palestine). These idols hold us back from receiving the water of Life (the Holy Spirit). During this Lent, let's reflect on our need of conversion: to turn away from any worship of false gods, and return to the true God who leads us from death to Life. Let's be like the villagers in the Gospel who readily accepted the words of Jesus and partook of the Living Water he was offering. Let us not be like the People of God in the desert who demanded that they have their thirst quenched in untested ways. They had to leave the rock in the desert!

We must hold firm to Jesus, our Rock, who is an eternal source of grace for us.

Fr John

### Good Friday - Stations of the Cross

#### CALL FOR ACTORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE LIVING WAY OF THE CROSS

From Jesus' condemnation by Pilate to His crucifixion and burial, people re-enact the plot, rather than still pictures or carvings. This makes it more meaningful and alive in our hearts.

This year, the Living Way of the Cross will be held at the grounds of Holy Cross Primary School, Glenwood, Friday 10th April 2020 at 10 am.

On our parish's 9th year run of the Living Way of The Cross, we once again knock upon you, St John XXIII Parishioners, for the following:

- Actors to play the roles; Jesus, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Simon, soldiers, crowds etc.
- Volunteers for logistics, supplies and safe-keeping of costumes;
- Greeters and Collectors

Practice sessions are scheduled on the following days:

- 28th March, Saturday 2:00 - 4:00pm at Church
- 4th April, Saturday 2.00 - 4.30pm at Holy Cross Primary

Interested parties may email Helen Festejo at [mhfestejo@gmail.com](mailto:mhfestejo@gmail.com) by 20 March 2020.

MAR	THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
Mon 16	9:00am - Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tue 17	9:00am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed 18	9:00am - Mass 9:15am - Holy Cross (Year 1)
Thu 19	9:00am - Mass 11.30am - St Mark's (Church) Stage 4
Fri 20	9:00am - Mass 7:30pm - Stations of the Cross
Sat 21	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass 7:00pm - South African Cuisine Night
Sun 22	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 12:00pm - Baptism please pray for Will and Ethan 6:00pm - Mass

### 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
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### 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."*



## 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).*



*"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.

### ⇒ Lenten Retreat

Join us for a Lenten Retreat on 28th March at St Mark's College Hall. See invitation on page 7 of the bulletin.

## LITURGY

### ⇒ Holy Thursday - Washing of the Feet!

Once again, the Parish SJ23rd Liturgy Team wish to invite parishioners who would like to take part as one of the 12 Apostles for the washing of the feet during Holy Thursday Mass. This is a Sacred & Solemn event in our church's history which is well known as the Last Supper.

There will be a sign up sheet at the foyer. For those who are interested to be involved, PLEASE write down your name, email address and mobile number and we will get in touch with you. (Please one member from each family) Closing date to register will be on the 31st March. The Final 12 will be selected after consultation with Father John.

### ⇒ PALM SUNDAY

Florists in the Diocese have advised that they can no longer supply the traditional palms for Palm Sunday as they have been placed on the endangered species list. So, we are asking parishioners to bring their own palms or olive branches or even eucalypt branches.

## 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.

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	

## Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

	3	10	17	24	31
Mar	Peiris	Erasmus B	Richard	Jacob	Manoj
Apr	Thirimanne	Sebastian	Shalini	Jacob	
May	Thirimanne	De Jesus	Sebastian	Jacob	
Jun	2	9	16	23	30
	available	Shalini	Richards	available	Jacob
Jul	7	14	21	28	
	Tanganun	available	available	Jacob	

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*



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](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 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.

## 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](mailto:naomi1.rey@gmail.com)

## 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.

**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.



## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Marina Agbulos-Ramirez.

### Deceased:

Ange Rose, Breda & Claude Panden,  
Shaun Ithier, Mina, Solange, Raymond

### Anniversary:

### 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:

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



## Parish Notices

### ⇒ TAP n GO

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 than tap more than once. Thank you for your generosity.

### ⇒ 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!

### ⇒ 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.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au) to download an enrolment pack."

### ⇒ 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](http://www.lentprogram.com).

Sign-up sheets for groups you may wish to form/join are available at the church foyer. For further info, please contact **Vit Lim** on 0411 765050.

### ⇒ SOUTH AFRICAN CUISINE NIGHT - 21st March, Saturday vigil

Join us for a fundraiser to assist with the purchase of the new sound system.

There will be Bunnychows with fillings of either Chicken Curry or Beans Curry (vegetarian option) served with carrot salad.

There will also be other South African menu items such as Pumpkin/ Sweet potato fritters, Snowballs, Milk Tart and Peppermint Pudding

As these have a tendency to sell out quickly, we will be taking pre-orders. Kindly note, these will only be sold on Saturday night, 21st March.

Please send your order request via sms to 0412 865 047. Please look out for posters for further information.

### ⇒ THANK YOU!!!!

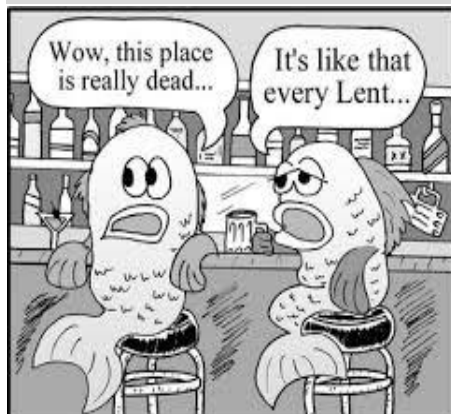
**From our Cake Angels,** THANK YOU to all parishioners who supported and made generous contributions to our cake stall last weekend of March 1st. We raised \$1,723.70. Your continued support always inspires us to make beautiful and delicious cakes and savouries. Until the next cake stall. All proceeds goes to the church funds.

**From our Liturgical team,** once more our profound gratitude for your generous contributions to our fundraising initiative for the purchase of the church audio system. We were able to raise \$1,247.20.

If you would like to still make some contributions, you can avail of the TAPnGO in the foyer area of the church.



## Church Funnies



[www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com](http://www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com)

### COELIACS

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

## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (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)



For collection this week 4 - Tinned tomatoes, kidney beans or chickpeas  
Please call Margaret Harrison on 0413 900 226 for more information.

### Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

### First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

*Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the children of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9, R. v.8

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your ancestors put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

### Second Reading

Roman 5:1-2, 5-8

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful people. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, one might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

John 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

*The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



**Water of eternal life**



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

### 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 Zvonimir Gavranovic

✉ [Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au](mailto:Zvonimir@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 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](http://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish)

## SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.

## Diocesan News

### Positions Vacant:

**Volunteers – Mamre Creche - CatholicCare Disability Support Workers (Casual) - CatholicCare**

More details at [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

### Catholic Outlook Magazine March Edition

Look out for copies of the next edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine in your local Catholic Church, Catholic school or Catholic office from early March. Catholic Outlook is an A4 magazine published quarterly with a focus on Catholic faith formation, spirituality and a look at what is happening across the agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta.

### 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](mailto:deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au).

### Natural Fertility Services

Natural Fertility Services, Diocese of Parramatta offers couples a NATURAL option to plan their families. Natural Family Planning is for couples wanting to achieve & avoid pregnancy. It is suitable for couples at all stages of their life including those preparing for marriage, breastfeeding women, couples looking for an effective, natural option and wanting to cease contraception and peri-menopausal women. For more information or to book an appointment contact Catherine on 0400 427 605, [catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org](mailto:catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org) or visit [www.parralmf.org.au](http://www.parralmf.org.au).

### Volunteers needed for new Life, Marriage and Family Office program

The Life Marriage & Family Office is looking for married couples to volunteer to undertake a free training course for a new program to be launched in the Diocese in late 2020. The Retrouvaille program aims to assist couples struggling in their marriage. An information meeting about the new program will be held on Tuesday 21 April at the Diocesan Ministry Centre, Blacktown from 7pm. For more information, expressions of interest or to RSVP to the information night, please contact Karin Abrams on (02) 8838 3460 or email [lmf@parracatholic.org](mailto:lmf@parracatholic.org) Bishop's

### Good Samaritan Appeal

Help CatholicCare chaplains bring comfort, faith and hope to the sick and isolated. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare chaplains provide spiritual, sacramental and emotional support in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan

Appeal – [www.yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://www.yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

### 24 March: Catholic Youth Parramatta Safeguarding Series #1

Catholic Youth Parramatta presents the first in a series of three safeguarding events in 2020, "Helping Youth Develop Safe & Healthy Relationships," facilitated by Cathy McClellan. The session will be held on Tuesday 24 March in the Greenway Room, Fiddler Hotel, Rouse Hill from 6.30pm to 9pm, with a light dinner provided. Register at <https://parracatholic.org/cyp-keeping-our-young-people-safe/>

## OTHERS

### Position Vacant

#### Administration/Travel Assistant

Catholic Education Northern Territory, Darwin, NT –Applications close 4pm Monday 16 March

#### Deputy Principal Secondary

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic College, Port Keats – Wadeye, NT. Applications close 4pm Monday 16 March. For more details please visit

[www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/](http://www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/)

### March 2020: ACU Themes of the Plenary Council Lecture Series

Australian Catholic University are hosting a series of lectures on the key themes of the Plenary Council 2020 during March. The lectures will be held in the Edmund Rice Building at its Strathfield Campus on each Wednesday through March. Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and Fr Peter Williams will be guest lecturers. Cost for attendance is \$60, or \$100 with a certificate of accreditation. For more information and registration details, please visit [www.acu.edu.au/short-courses-sydney](http://www.acu.edu.au/short-courses-sydney)

### 19 March: Dear Mother, Dear Father Book Launch

You are invited to the book launch of "Dear Mother, Dear Father—Letters Home from John Corcoran Wallis 1927-1949" by Bernadette T Wallis on Thursday 19 March from 5.30pm at the Catholic institute of Sydney, 99 Albert Rd, Strathfield.

To RSVP, please call the Missionary Sisters on (03)9873 5520, 0411 058046, email [mssadmin@missionarysisters.org.au](mailto:mssadmin@missionarysisters.org.au).

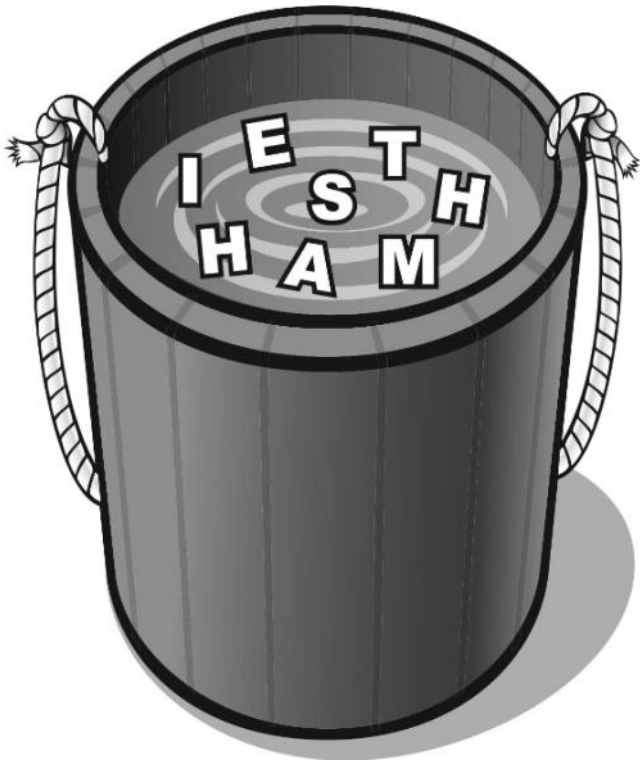
For further information, visit [www.missionarysisters.org.au](http://www.missionarysisters.org.au) or [www.highwaysandbynways.org.au](http://www.highwaysandbynways.org.au)

### 27 – 29 March: Men's Prayer Weekend Retreat

St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW, is hosting a men's prayer weekend from 27 to 29 March. Paul White and Fr Thang Nguyen msc will reflect on scripture and modern writers regarding the interaction between trust and discernment in times of transition in our lives. To RSVP, please contact (02)4630 0233, email [contact@towersretreat.org.au](mailto:contact@towersretreat.org.au) or visit

## Kids' Corner

Unscramble the letters in the bucket to reveal who the Samaritan woman discovered Jesus to really be.



\_\_\_\_\_ **E** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **S** \_\_\_\_\_

I am the Christ who speaks to you now

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

Ancestor  
Samaritan

bucket  
Sychar

drink  
town

food  
two

Jacob  
well

Messiah  
woman



## Notices



**Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia  
Diocese of Parramatta**  
Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia  
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750, Australia  
☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813  
✉ [peterwilliams@parracatholic.org](mailto:peterwilliams@parracatholic.org)  
🌐 [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org)

4 March 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

### Re: COVID-19 Update

You will be aware through the media and other sources of emerging concerns over the spread of COVID-19 (earlier referred to corona virus.)

Several weeks ago, I issued on behalf of Bishop Vincent some directions around certain liturgical practices which have been accepted by the clergy and people of the Diocese, and it has provided a measure of protection and comfort for many of our people who are rightly concerned about this health issue.

A new set of directions were sent to the clergy today which adheres to advice that we have received from public health authorities about the risks of transmission associated with the virus. One of these risks concerns the administration of Holy Communion.

In the Latin Church, Holy Communion can be received in two ways, either on the tongue or in the hand. From today, Holy Communion can only be received in the hand because of the high risk of transmission if people continue to receive on the tongue.

I understand that for those of you who normally received Holy Communion on the tongue that this is a matter of pious practice and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament and that you may have been doing so your entire life. In the current circumstances, I ask that you adjust to the practice of Holy Communion in the hand for the sake of your fellow parishioners.

I further ask that you respect those administering Holy Communion, both ordinary and extraordinary ministers, who have received a directive that they cannot administer Holy Communion on the tongue.

As soon as this health risk is mitigated, and advice comes from the public health officials we will revert to the usual liturgical practices that applied before the appearance of COVID-19.

Every blessing in this season of Lent,

Very Rev Peter G. Williams  
Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia



The Catholic Parish **John XXIII**

## YOU ARE INVITED!

Hi All,  
Our Parish Faith Formation committee will conduct a **LENTEN RETREAT**.

**Date** - Saturday 28th March 2020  
**Where** - St Mark's Staff Room  
**Time** - 9.00 am to 2.30 pm  
(Retreat will commence with 9.00 am Mass)

By attending we will be able to:

- Refresh and revitalises and gives the opportunity for more time spent in prayer and contemplation.
- Rekindles and deepens our relationship with God\*
- Opportunity to more clearly hear God's call and to seek God's healing grace and thereby attain a degree of spiritual renewal

Morning Tea will be provided.

Please bring a plate to share for Lunch.

In order for us to prepare for the Lenten season, it is important that all of us attend this retreat.

God bless you

Fr John McSweeney  
Parish Priest



## 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

**DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE,**  
**DO NOT BURY YOUR TALENTS,**  
**THE GIFTS THAT GOD**  
**HAS GIVEN YOU!**  
**DO NOT BE AFRAID**  
**TO DREAM OF GREAT THINGS!**  
**POPE FRANCIS**



## 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](mailto:youth@john23rd.com.au).**

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



*ST JOHN XXIII would like to thank these businesses for their contribution to our parish community*

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DAYS**

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• Nazareth • Mt Beatitudes • Jerusalem (6) • Masada • Bethlehem • Optional  
2 night Wonders of Petra Extension



Accompanied by  
**FR JOHN MCSWEENEY**

Application forms at the church foyer

SJ 23

**BLAZE**  
YOUTH GROUP



**St Vincent de Paul Society**

Meets 2nd and 4th

Thursday at 7:00pm

*good works*



**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

**3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm**

*SJ23rd Prayer Group*



Join and be  
part of the

**Cake Angels**

contact Madeline Huang  
cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com

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