



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



**Fifth Sunday
of Lent
29 March 2020**

Message from Father John

Last week we heard about the Healing of the Man Born Blind, and how Jesus led him from the darkness of unbelief to the Light of Faith.

Today's Text from St John - concerning the Raising of Lazarus - is the final moment in the Fourth Gospel's Seven Signs of Jesus which occur during his Public Ministry.

In raising his close friend, Jesus foreshadows his own Resurrection; and he demonstrates that the Son has power over everything, including death.

In these dark times of Pandemic, we have to trust that the Light of Christ will burn brightly, leading us forward to New Life.

- Although our Church buildings may be closed
- Although our Liturgies may be suspended

Although we cannot receive the Sacraments as we did Christ is still present in each one of us! The Light of Christ burns within us, gifting us with hope. Christ lives within each of us in his resurrected and eternal state. And so, as the living Body of Christ, we, the Church, will continue living our Faith... And even in separation and self-isolation, we are not alone... we remain together in spirit. And the Lord is with us!

During these difficult times - and during what may lie ahead....

- Let's continue faithful to the Lord in word and practice;
- Let's pray for each other as often as we can;
- Let's pray for the sick and dying throughout our world;

And let's remain full of hope... for the Lord who raised Lazarus from death will raise us up from any disaster that may lie ahead!

While we cannot celebrate mass or the sacraments while our church is closed, we realise many people have health conditions or need help in some other way, such as shopping.

To enable us to improve and extend our communication to members of our parish we are updating the parish database.

In the next day or say you will receive a brief survey form which we would ask you to complete and return to us as soon as possible. All information will be treated in confidence and only used for parish pastoral activities.

I know these times will be difficult for some, but let's try and see the weeks and months to come as a type of extended Lenten Penance for us all. We must continue as best we can during this time of darkness until the Light of the Risen Christ shines upon us once again in the future.

Let's continue to pray for each other, and especially for those who are ill.

Let us read the scriptures every day, pray the rosary as a family where possible, and call upon the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes during the days ahead.

God Bless you all

Fr John, Fr Zvonimir and Deacon Rudy

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."



MAR THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH	
Mon 30	
Tue 31	
APR	
Wed 1	
Thu 2	
Fri 3	
Sat 4	9 - 10am - Confession (Garden of Remembrance - weather permitting)
Sun 5	Palm Sunday

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.



Week 6 - Pasta or spaghetti

Please call Margaret Harrison on 0413 900226 for more information.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

⇒ SOUTH AFRICAN CUISINE NIGHT

A big thank you to all who supported our cuisine night. We were able to raise \$1,585 which will go help fund our church's audio system. Again a big thank you to all!



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL	
Chairman	Members
Gary Lee	Bing Catabas
Dep Chairman	Chris Drummond
Bernadette Virwani	Nanette Gamboa
Secretary	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	
	Tanganan	Shalini	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 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 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.

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

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:

Clarence Duncan

Deceased:

Anniversary:

Felipe Villalba

Sick: Names published with permission.

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 Elisura, 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

Parish Notices

⇒ New Mass and church building guidelines

The Diocese of Parramatta issued new guidelines to clergy and parishes based on the new government directives around social and religious space, that came into effect at midday Monday, 23 March 2020. These new Diocesan guidelines have also been made available to the general public at <https://parracatholic.org/covid19/>

Church buildings are closed and Masses (both indoors and outdoors) are to cease. Funerals and weddings are allowed to take place with strict social distancing required by the government. Only emergency baptisms will continue at this point, with each priest/deacon to use their own discretion on how to handle these as long as social distancing rules are observed.

⇒ Confessions

While the church is closed, there will be time for confessions in the Garden of Remembrance from 9.00-10.00am and 5.00-6.00pm every Saturday (weather permitting), or upon request.

Church Funnies



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

John XXIII and St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au



During this time when we are no longer able to gather to celebrate the Eucharist, Liturgy Help has enabled free access to all parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta. We hope that Catholics in social isolation can gain a sense of prayerful solidarity with their local faith communities and the whole Body of Christ.

The URL for Parramatta is www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray

Sr Mary Louise, Liturgy Educator, Office for Worship Diocese of Parramatta

⇒ Helping our Parish

A practical impact of this pandemic is the financial impact to the Parish. Without the collections, we are looking into a very difficult time for the rest of the year. This is an impact that is going to be felt by many of you.

If you would like to continue to support the Parish, we will encourage you to please make your donations online. There will be forms available in the foyer if you would like to switch to this way of supporting the parish financially.

Our Tap and Go is also available at \$5 or \$10.

If you have Planned Giving envelopes, please place those in the mailbox outside the sacristy door.

⇒ Bishop's Pastoral letter

Please find attached (page 5) a pastoral letter to the clergy, religious and people of Parramatta during the coronavirus crisis from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv.

You can also view a video message from Bishop Vincent here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MT4Ze4dXAU>

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

R With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R)**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R)**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **(R)**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **(R)**

Second Reading

Rom 8:3-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (short version)

Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.





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

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

SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments
and constructive suggestions.

Diocesan News



Pastoral letter to the clergy, religious and people of Parramatta during the coronavirus crisis

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of us feel powerless in the face of this corona virus pandemic. We see in a devastating way how widely a virus spreads person to person and the immense damage it is doing to our community.

We are indeed living in a time of great crisis locally and globally. So, it is only human that we will experience considerable fear and anxiety.

However, as people of faith in Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to place our trust in our God who promises to be present with us even in these times of great suffering and sickness.

Even in his seeming absence, we still place our hope in the One who loves us tenderly and with great mercy. And so, as responsible citizens and faithful Catholics, in solidarity with our wonderful doctors and health professionals, our first rule must be: **"Do no harm."**

That means not doing anything that might spread the virus to others with whom we live in community. We need to listen to our medical experts and not to conspiracy theorists who use any crisis to profiteer or stir up hatred and division.

We must also comply with the directives of our government authorities for the sake of the common good. The gospel calls us to practice such solidarity in these difficult days.

As many of you already know I have **issued a statement** which involves the closure of churches and the curtailment of our regular worship practices until this crisis abates.

Please adhere strictly to these directives that I have given. Further updates can be found here: www.parracatholic.org/covid19 as the situation we are in is so fast changing and complex.

All of us in the Diocese of Parramatta must follow these guidelines without exception, so that we can be like St Joseph: 'Protectors of Life'.

Becoming 'Protectors of Life' will certainly demand of us sacrifices. Let's especially not forget the suffering in our midst: the elderly, the weak, the disabled, the homeless, the unemployed et cetera. Let us not forget vulnerable groups and communities: the indigenous, the asylum seekers in detention, prisoners et cetera.

Then there are also those whom the Catholic Church through the traditional Lenten Project Compassion supports.

In previous ages before germs and viruses were understood, people blamed strangers, Jews and 'outsider's' for sickness. Anyone who was different could be the target of people's fear.

So, let us in these days be especially mindful of caring with compassion and charity for any persons in community who are on the 'margins': be they the aged, the chronically ill and all those living in poverty and isolation. Let our love for them be real and concrete.

May we also use these days to deepen our prayer and spiritual lives. Even as we mourn our losses, Pope Francis encourages us, "Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 259)

So please visit our diocesan website at www.parracatholic.org/covid19 for some good and helpful information about how we can follow this path of deeper prayer. It includes online liturgy resources for personal and family prayer and various options for viewing Mass on-line and meditating on the daily scripture readings.

The coronavirus crisis strikes fear and anxiety into people across the globe. It also reveals deep cultural prejudices and divisions against the elderly, the weak and even those of certain race and ethnicity.

Our faith makes us step beyond these human boundaries. It expands our horizons and pushes the limits of our capacity to love.

Through the example of Jesus, we are called to embrace those vulnerable in our society and reach out to them. It is not the time to look after ourselves only but to care for others, through our prayers, acts of kindness and deep communion with them.

May these days of suffering and fear draw us ever close to Christ and let's all pray with Pope Francis to Mary, our mother: (page 7)

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Given at Parramatta on 25 March 2020
The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Fill in the missing word on each strip of cloth to find out what the letters in each box spell.

Jesus' good

r__n_ Lazarus was very sick.

Martha and M

__ were sad when their brother died.

"Lazarus will

v_ again", said Jesus.

Jesus went to the opened

__b and prayed.

Lazarus walked out of

_s tomb alive.

Lazarus comes back to life

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

Bethany
Mary

cloth
out

cry
sick

face
sister

Lazarus
stone

Martha
tomb

Important update COVID-19

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta has issued the following directive. Please note:

From 20 March 'Catholics from the diocese of Parramatta are... dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (*Canon 1248.2 and Catechism 2181*)'.

This means that no one is required to attend Sunday Mass for the foreseeable future!

FURTHER TO FRIDAY'S GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT SOCIAL DISTANCING, ALL SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES ARE CANCELLED at St John XXIII.

1. Marriages and Baptisms may proceed but must be limited to those directly involved: Bridal Party and immediate family of the Bride and Groom - for weddings; parents and godparents only - for Baptisms. No friends or relatives beyond the immediate family may attend. This is a Diocesan rule. Given this, I would strongly suggest that those affected consider postponing their Ceremony where possible.
2. Funerals may go ahead, but only the immediate family may attend.
3. For all these ceremonies, including weekday mass, the social distancing requirement of 1.5m applies. People may have spread out in our Church!
4. All meetings relating to parish life are to be suspended forthwith
5. Reconciliation and Anointing are still available when requested, but all social distancing and hygiene norms will need to be maintained. Communion to the sick will be available when requested, but only the priests and deacon may take communion to the sick.
6. The parish office will remain open next week, but with limited hours - yet to be advised. We may have to close the Office in the future with personnel working from Home, but this is not the case as yet.
7. Of course, the priests and Deacon are still available for any urgent pastoral care in the days and weeks ahead.

Stay tuned for further updates!

I know these decisions will be difficult for some, but let's try and see the weeks and months to come as a type of extended Lenten Penance for us all. We must continue as best we can during this time of darkness until the Light of the Risen Christ shines upon us once again in the future.

Let's continue to pray for each other, and especially for those who are ill.

Let us read the scriptures every day, pray the rosary as a family where possible, and call upon the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes during the days ahead.

God Bless you all

Fr John

From the Pastoral letter to the clergy, religious and people of Parramatta during the coronavirus crisis (page5)

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,

you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of all People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.

Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

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

**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



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SJ 23

BLAZE
YOUTH GROUP



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good works



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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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