



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



**Second Sunday  
of Lent  
8 March 2020**

### Message from Father John

My dear sisters and brothers

The recent decision by our Bishop, via his Vicar General, that we may only receive Holy Communion on the hand will cause distress to some.

I understand that the reception of the Host on the tongue is something very important to some among us for spiritual and/or cultural reasons.

However, for the sake of our neighbour (including the Minister of Holy Communion) it is a sacrifice that we are being asked to make at this time.

Remember that the more ancient tradition of our church is to receive Communion on the hand: St Augustine told his Diocese to "make a throne with your hands for the Lord."

Also, Jesus told us to "Take, and eat." He did not say: 'Open your mouth, and be fed.'

Furthermore, when we all receive Communion on the hand, please make sure that you wait until the Minister's hand has gone before you pick up the host, so that no touching of the hands occurs.

Let us pray for each other at this time. 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	9	9:00am - Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tue	10	9:00am - Liturgy of the Word with Communion 7:30pm - Mass Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	11	9:00am - Mass 9.15am - Holy Cross (Year 2)
Thu	12	9:00am - Mass 11.45am - St Mark's (Church) Stage 4
Fri	13	9:00am - Mass 7:30pm - Stations of the Cross
Sat	14	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	15	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 12.00pm - Baptism please pray for Allanah, Alex, Harrison & Ziva 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

### 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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)

## Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

	3	10	17	24	31
Mar	Peiris	Erasmio 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.

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	

## 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:

Lucita Jabson, Edvin Krsevan

### Deceased:

Geeta Shenoy, Reno Camilleri,  
Mary ann & Joseph Bugaja, Carmen &  
Charlie Camilleri, Emanuel Cremona,  
Victoria Cremona, Victor Cremona,  
Angelo Cremona

### Anniversary:

Antonia Cremona, Lucita Jabson,  
Florenca Reynolds

### 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 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:

Vuksinic & Nujic Family,  
Letlet Fontanilla

## Church Funnies



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group  
to help fold the church bulletins again."

## 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)

## 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  
Bunnyschows 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  
savories. 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.



For collection this week 3—Cooking oil  
Please call Margaret Harrison on 0413 900  
226 for more information.



### Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

### First Reading

*Genesis 12:1-4*

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22*

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **R**

### Second Reading

*2 Timothy 1:8-10*

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 17:5*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

*Matthew 17:1-9*

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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

### Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.





Welcome to the community of the Catholic Parish of St John 23rd Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens Where the love of Christ is shining in so many ways.

## PARISH OFFICE

### Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

### Office Contacts

(02) 8883 5981  
(0423 160 567 AH Emergency)  
160 Perfection Avenue,  
Stanhope Gardens, 2768

### 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

### 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).

### 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](mailto:donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au) or [paul.roberts@ifm.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au)

### 12-14 March: National Biennial Liturgy Conference

The Diocese of Parramatta is hosting the National Biennial Liturgy Conference, an Australian gathering of liturgy representatives, pastoral ministers, catechists, musicians, educators and all who are interested in liturgy. The Conference, to be held at Novotel Sydney Parramatta from 12 to 14 March, will include an excellent variety of workshops whilst focusing on fostering and forming the people of God at prayer. For more information, contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456.

## OTHERS

### Positions Vacant

– Manager – Aboriginal and Islander Education (Engagement and workforce development) at Catholic Education Office Northern Territory, Darwin, NT –Applications close 4pm Monday 2 March

For more details, please visit [www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/](http://www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/)

– Faith Formation Team Leader – St Agatha's Parish, Pennant Hills – Applications close 4pm Monday 2 March

For more details, please visit <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/people/positions-vacant>

### 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)

### 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](mailto:contact@towersretreat.org.au) or visit [www.towersretreat.org.au](http://www.towersretreat.org.au).

### 13 – 15 March: Mindfulness and the Presence of God Retreat

St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW, is hosting a weekend retreat on 'Mindfulness and the Presence of God' on 13 to 15 March. Presenters Michelle Vass and Lou Nulley will discuss being mindful in the Christian Tradition, mindfulness practices and mindfulness meditation. Registration is \$250. To RSVP, please contact (02) 4630 0233, email [contact@towersretreat.org.au](mailto:contact@towersretreat.org.au) or visit [www.towersretreat.org.au](http://www.towersretreat.org.au).

By using the words below, can you work out what the voice from the cloud said to the apostles?

SON AM LISTEN TO SAYS  
BELOVED HIM IS PLEASED

THIS \_ \_ MY

\_\_\_\_\_,  
AND I \_\_\_\_\_  
WITH \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_ \_ WHAT HE \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus' face shone like the sun

W  
O  
R  
D  
S  
E  
A  
R  
C  
H

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

afraid      cloud      disciples      face      flat      James  
John      Moses      mountain      Peter      sun      voice



**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  
✉ [peter.williams@parracatholic.org](mailto:peter.williams@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

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

✉ For all youth ministry enquiries, email us at [youth@john23rd.com](mailto: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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**15  
DAYS**

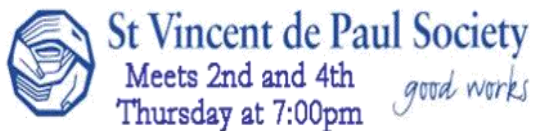
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• Nazareth • Mt Beatitudes • Jerusalem (6) • Masada • Bethlehem • Optional  
2 night Wonders of Petra Extension



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**FR JOHN MCSWEENEY**

Application forms at the church foyer



**St Vincent de Paul Society**

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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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