



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



**Easter Sunday  
12 April 2020**

### Message from Father John

Dear friends in Christ

This year sees us celebrate the great events of Holy Week and Easter in our Homes, separated from friends, some loved ones, and our brothers and sisters in our Parish community.

Yet, despite our physical distance, we remain One in Christ!

All Christians - of whatever tradition - see these days as the most important moments in our Faith Journey every year. For, in these days, we remember the saving Death and Resurrection of the Lord.

I believe we can more easily identify with the sadness of the Disciples at the death of their Master.

All that seemed good, all that promised new Hope, everything that Jesus had proclaimed about the coming Kingdom - all appeared to have ended...

We, too, can feel that our lives have been curtailed by the present crisis; that everything we hoped to do is on hold. We, too, are saddened by the infection death of so many in our Nation and throughout the world. And, like the Disciples, we can be afraid of the future.

Yet, God raised Jesus from Death; He was raised to New and Eternal Life!

And we, too, my friends, will experience New Life soon, for we will see through this time of pain and darkness and emerge renewed in the Light of Christ!

Like with the Disciples, we will be strengthened and encouraged to move forward into the Future, full of joy.

The Christian message has always captured the Truth of human experience... that something new emerges from the death of the old. This is so true today... we are living this experience now!

Let us never lose Hope ... for we believe that this existence is not all there is: the future for those of Faith is glorious. We are, indeed, Easter People - and our song / our proclamation is always ALLELUIA!

### IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. Please check our parish website and Facebook page for all updates and links during this time of suspension of our normal functioning as a community together. We will be recording and uploading our Sunday Liturgy each week.
2. There will be live-streaming of the Easter Triduum Liturgies from the Cathedral with Bishop Vincent. This can be found on the Diocesan Webpage. We will also be live-streaming our Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm; and Easter Sunday Mass at 10:30am.
3. If someone has a pastoral need, please contact us via our Parish email [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au) or via our Parish Emergency phone (0403766468). The parish Team continue to work from home, with the main phone and emails diverted.
4. Please note that we cannot schedule confessions any more, as this is viewed as 'opening the church'. Please contact Fr Zvonimir or myself directly if you need this sacrament...
5. Concerning Finance: The Tap 'n Go terminals work through the doors of the church; Planned Giving Envelopes can be placed under one of the doors of the church; and there are direct debit and credit card forms outside the side door of the church. Finally, we have given our parish bank account on the parish website and Facebook page. Thank you for your continuing support in these tough times.
6. A online survey is continuing to be sent to those who have given us their email addresses. This will update our records a little, but it is primarily to ascertain who might be in need of any concrete help. If you haven't given us your email address, please send it to [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)
7. Lastly: a Blessed Easter to you all. Let's continue to pray for one another during the days, weeks, and months ahead....

God Bless you

Fr John and the Parish Team.

### Sunday Mass Times

Sat	Vigil 6:00pm
Sun	7:30am, 9am, 11am, 6:00pm

### Weekday Mass Times

Mon	9am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tues-Fri	9am Mass
+ Wed	10am Mass (School during school term)
+ Thurs	11.15am Mass (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 Mass)

### Exposition + Benediction

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

### Reconciliation

Sat: 5.00-5.45pm	upon request
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### Sacrament of the Sick

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

### Devotion + 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
Fri 6.30pm	Christ the King Community Prayer in Parish Meeting Room) Pauline 0417039

### 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."*



For further updates with regards to our parish activities, always check our website <http://john23rd.com/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>  
For Mass recordings check our website or subscribe to our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCImEQLA7Nz5yhCCGgdyiCLg>

## 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"*

We continue to ask for host families to pray the rosary at home and request our Blessed Mother's intercessions.

With the current Covid19 crisis, families who are rostered are requested to communicate between families on the transfer of the Blessed Statue. Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.



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

### ⇒ Children's liturgical

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 1st Mass, please contact Helen Zammit on 8883 598.

### ⇒ 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 a few hours on weekdays to spread God's word teaching the scriptures to children, **we need you**. We currently have 4 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 contact ASOK on 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814. Training and support 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 Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynoldson on [naomi1@vinniesvan.org.au](mailto:naomi1@vinniesvan.org.au)

## Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

Apr	7	14	21	28	
	Thirimanne	Sebastian	Shalini	Jacob	
May	5	12	19	26	
	Thirimanne	De Jesus	Sebastian	Jacob	
Jun	2	9	16	23	30
	available	Shalini	Richards	available	Jacob
Jul	7	14	21	28	
	Tanganun	Shalini	available	Jacob	
Aug	4	11	18	25	
	available	available	Sebastian	Jacob	

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*

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

### ⇒ Resource links

For more directive updates from the Diocese during this time of COVID19 crisis <https://parracatholic.org/covid19/> or their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic/>

### For parishioners' wellbeing

**Lifeline:** <https://www.lifeline.org.au/> or call 131114

**Kids Helpline:** <https://kidshelpline.com.au/> or call 1800551800

### Headspace: Advice for Young People

<https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-cope-with-stress-related-to-covid-19/>

**Beyond Blue:** <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> or call 1300 22 4636

**Catholic Care Parramatta:** 8843 2575

### Supporting your wellbeing through the Covid-19 pandemic:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

**Australian Psychological society Resources for Covid-19 - quite comprehensive:** <https://www.psychology.org.au/COVID-19-Australians>

### World Health Organisation - Covid-9 and Mental Health:

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff_2)

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

## 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. A Planned giving Program is in place to help us with the running cost of the church.

**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. The Parish Finance Committee encourages all parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions or use our Tap&Go machines instead of the envelop system. 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, Anshu Mala Nand, Elizabeth Candame, Virginia Santos, Raymond Lanzona, Gloria Buosi, Hazel Masher, Pat Doyle, Florentina Elsisura, Perla Magculang, Norbert Mascarenhas, Elizabeth Newnes, Kalayani, Bernie Presto, Isagani Ocampo, Christina Properzi, Zenira D'Souza, Elmo Joachim, Sophie De leon, Virgina Santos, Praba Daniel, Dung Phan, Karam Matte, Karam Sarsam

### 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

### ⇒ 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.

### ⇒ 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.

## Prayers

As we celebrate the Resurrection today, let's place before the Father all our needs and intentions, praying particularly for an end to the sickness and death brought about by COVID19...

1. For Pope Francis, Bishop Vincent, and all leaders in our Church: that they will be blessed with good health and strength from the Holy Spirit in order to continue their ministries of service... LORD HEAR US...
2. For our civil leaders throughout the world: that they may do all they can to stop the spread of COVID-19, while supporting the most vulnerable in our society... LORD HEAR US...
3. For those who work in health-related activities: that they may remain safe and healthy as they care for those in need...LORD HEAR US...
4. For the sick: that all who are suffering in mind and body may receive the healing they need at this time...LORD HEAR US...
5. For all those who have died: that they may be redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Saviour killed for our Salvation and raised to New Life for all ...LORD HEAR US...

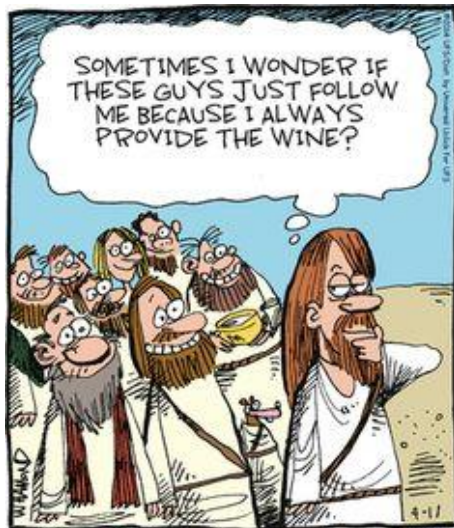
And now, in the privacy of our homes, let us place before the Lord those needs and intentions we have this day...(LONG PAUSE)...

Loving God, your Son was obedient even unto Death.

Help us to remain faithful to His Gospel during these dark days of illness and death, so that we will experience the New Life of Resurrection this Easter and beyond!

And we ask this, and all our prayers, through Christ our Lord. Amen

## 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](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)

### Entrance Antiphon

*Cf. Ps 138:18, 5-6*

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

### First Reading

*Acts 10:34, 37-43*

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, R. v.24*

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **(R.)**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

*Col 3:1-4*

*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sequence

*The sequence is said or sung on this day. On the weekdays of the Octave of Easter, its use is optional.*

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

### Gospel Acclamation

*1 Cor 5:7-8*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Lk 24:13-35*

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Communion Antiphon

*1 Cor 5:7-8*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.



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.



"Lockdown" has gone from being a phrase only heard on news bulletins after shooting incidents in the United States to being the description that millions of us give to our lives right now.

We cannot gather for liturgy in large groups, we cannot gather in small informal groups physically close to each other, and more and more of us are confined to our own homes.

So can we pray together? Can we celebrate as the Church?

In some places this seems not to be a problem. The local priest or bishop has gone and got some technology, told people to watch on TV or computer, and then 'said Mass' – and many are delighted and see little problem!

Some bishops have even gone a step further and dug out a dusty 17th-century justification once used to explain why almost no one 'went to communion' to suggest that you might not be losing that much! You could, after all have 'spiritual communion'!

But this notion, grabbed out of the cupboard in a hurry, fails to take account of the incarnational – that is, the actual touching, tasting, feeling – nature of Christianity and does not do justice to what we believe about the importance of the Eucharist.

In any case, as some cynic pointed out, if you can have 'spiritual communion' why can't the collection also be spiritual: I would like to give some money, but I only have to think about it!

### Pater NOSTER: Praying as a group

But this virus could bring us a blessing: we might re-discover praying not just with those around us – if we are in a house or flat with others – but our sense of being the whole People of God at prayer.

Most of us live very private lives and we think of prayer as the most private activity of all. Prayer often becomes 'me' and 'about me' and 'for me.'

But look again that the Lord's Prayer – it all about US, it is WE who prayer, and we ask for OUR needs.

Go through the prayer noticing that the singular individual (I/me) is completely absent, and it is framed entirely in the plural (our/us).

We pray:

OUR Father who art in heaven ...

Give US this day OUR daily bread, and

Forgive US OUR trespasses

As WE forgive those who trespass against US

And lead US not into temptation, but deliver US...

Just think how different it would be if you said: "give me my daily bread"! It would be little more than an expression of selfishness, as if society did not exist. It would be the religious parallel of panic buying.

The early followers of Jesus did not think of themselves as praying individuals – even when they were alone – but as a single group, this new single social reality gathered into one by the Christ who as one family, brothers and sisters of Jesus (Mt 12:50), addressed God.

We have forgotten this, and it is time to recover it.

### Praying at the times of prayer in the temple

By the time of Jesus it was common knowledge among the Jews that they prayed as one people in God's temple in Jerusalem. If they wished to show their earnestness in prayer that were expected to align their times of prayer with those of the sacrifices of praise in that temple.

So in the little novelette, the Book of Judith, this woman (presented as an ideal of holiness) who has to save her people, gives added force to her prayer by fasting and by praying at the exact moment the evening prayer was being offered in Jerusalem (*Judith 9:1*).

The regular pattern of prayer emphasized the natural moments of each day – dawn/morning; noon/midday; and dusk/evening. It linked Israel to God and bound each individual into the People.

The first followers of Jesus adopted this theme of praying together in their memorized instruction guide for disciples, the Didache:

"You should pray like this, just as the Lord commanded in his gospel:

Our Father, who is in the heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debt as we forgive our debtors

And do not abandon us in the day of trial

But deliver us from the evil one

For yours is the power and glory forever.

Say this prayer three times each day (Did 8: 1-3).

The Didache does not say when each day, but the obvious meaning is morning, midday and evening.

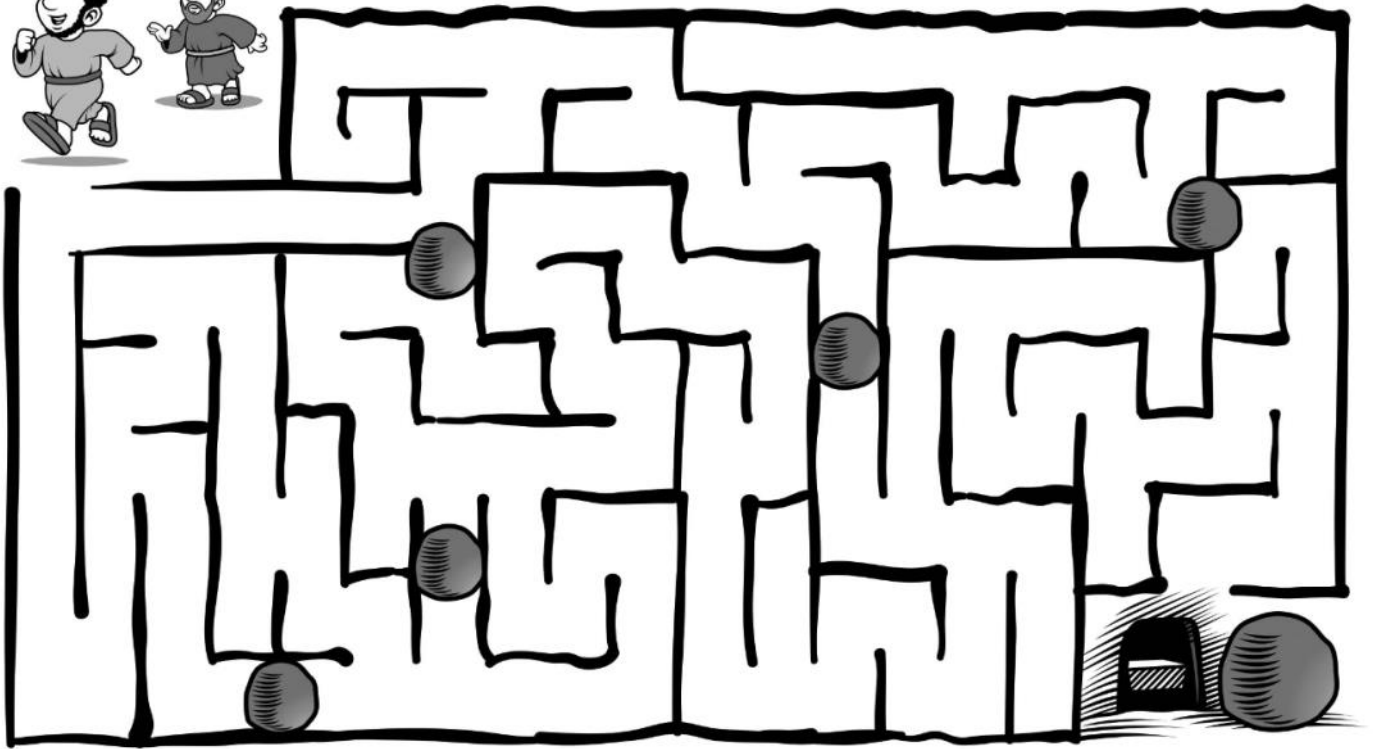
However, the more important point for us to remember is that whether those disciples were alone or in company, when they said the prayer, they thought of themselves as a group.

By the way, it would be 1000 years later before anyone had the idea that one could pray without moving one's lips. People of former times may have prayed very quietly, but our notion of just letting the mind run over ideas would have seemed weird to them.





Help the disciples find their way to Jesus' empty tomb.



Jesus Christ is risen!

W  
O  
R  
D  
S  
E  
A  
R  
C  
H

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

Cloth      dark      entrance      face      life      linen      Mary  
                 Peter      Scriptures      stone      taken      tomb

## The prayer of fixed times

5 The notion of group prayer – even when scattered – can be found in Judaism. There is the desire to know the exact moment when Shabbat begins, as way to link all Jewish households where God will be blessed.

It is also found in Islam. Muslims pray five times each day, linking them to fellow believers in praying how great God is.

And it is found in Christianity with the Liturgy of the Hours. There is the notion that, as one group's praise ends, the song of the whole people is taken up by another member of this body.

But for most Christians this practice has been forgotten. The prayer of the hours has been "outsourced" to some monks or nuns or a few pious individuals.

This is a great pity. It means we've lost something that can bind us together in the face of the lonely individualism that is symptomatic of consumerist society.

And it also dulls our awareness that the prayer of blessing the Creator binds us with Jews and Muslims.

Just reflect on the sweep of this 19th century hymn by John Ellerton:

The day thou gavest Lord is ended  
The darkness falls at thy behest  
To thee our morning hymns ascended  
Thy praise with sanctify our rest  
We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping  
While earth rolls onwards into light  
Through all the world her watch is keeping  
And rest not now by day or night ...  
Find this hymn and read it, pray it!

### So what can WE do?

I know people who are using Zoom to set up groups to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours. Great! This is a real community praying the Church's prayer.

In normal times, rushing to get the kids out to school or running to get ready for work, this would not be possible. But now it is, and for that we can be thankful. As for the text, you do not need to buy a book – that too is on the web!

I hear of other groups who are using parts of the Liturgy of the Hours because, let's face it, if you are not used to all those psalms and readings, it can give you biblical indigestion.

But even that is too much for many people and they may not want to have to go to the bother of linking up on-line. Well, just follow that first-century instruction: pray the Our Father, actually saying it quietly or aloud, three times (morning, midday, evening) each day in union with the rest of US who call on God as Father.

We should also note another aspect of our humanity.

Many people, for the first time in their lives, are living without the normal external pressures that organize their day and create a routine. We need routines if we are not to go crazy, especially when confined within four walls.

Monks and nuns have known this for centuries. And one of the ways that they impose order on their lives is to link times of prayer to the structure of the day: darkness/light, the morning time of getting up, the middle of the day and work, and the evening and slowing down.

So attune to this rhythm, and then link yourself to it and to others by having times of prayer. It does not have to be elaborate, it does not need many words, but it does need regularity and attention.

An On-line Mass is always just a substitute, an ersatz. It's a poor second to the real thing. Let's not cheapen it: let us wait until we can again rejoice, elbow-to-elbow around the table of the Lord, give each other the kiss of peace, and share the loaf and drink again from the Lord's cup.

During lockdown, let's do something spiritual, immediate and real. Pray each day in union with all our sisters and brothers wherever they are in our need.

As over continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day  
The voice of prayer is never silent  
Nor dies the strain of praise away!

Thomas O'Loughlin is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and professor of historical theology at the University of Nottingham (UK). His latest book is *Eating Together, Becoming One: Taking Up Pope Francis's Call to Theologians* (Liturgical Press, 2019).

## 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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