



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



**Palm Sunday
5 April 2020**

Message from Father John

As we re-enact the last days of the earthly life of Jesus, Our Lord, we call to mind these distressing events of his life. He was betrayed by his best friend, a friend whom he trusted; and it happened over a meal. A meal where he gave himself to us in the most intimate of ways. He gave himself to us till the end of time.

We entered in with him into the garden where he says: *My soul is sorrowful to the point of death.* We recall occasions in our own lives where we ourselves might have gone through distressing experiences, soul shattering moments where we were filled with such sorrow, *to the point of death.* The Lord wanted to avoid it, as at time we want to avoid distasteful duties. Let us have the courage of the Lord and say with him: *Let it be as you, not I would have it.* His closest followers didn't appreciate the seriousness of the event; he found them sleeping. Then he is arrested, Judas kisses him, with the rest of his friends fleeing. We witness his trial, the most innocent human being who ever lived, and will ever live, is placed on trial. The masses of people preferred the release of a criminal to the saviour of the world. We human beings can at times be very cruel and unfeeling, just as the people *made fun of him....The passers by jeered at him.* In his agony he felt abandoned not only by his friends and people but by God himself: *My God, my God why have you deserted me?* At times we might call to mind moments in our lives when we were felt abandoned by those closest to us and even by God Himself.

As we enter Holy Week, let us enter it with the spirit of openness, resignation and courage. Facing up to the responsibilities that the Good God has placed before us. Let us not be evasive, take the easy option and above all flee from what God is calling us to. The Lord Himself could have avoided going to Jerusalem, but something deep within him told him that it was his Heavenly Father's wish that he face what lay ahead.

The Lord has left us an example to follow.....

Fr Zvonimir

IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. Please check our parish website <http://john23rd.com/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/> 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.
3. If someone has a pastoral need, please contact us via email secretary@john23rd.org.au or our Parish Emergency phone 0403766468. The parish Team will 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 by the authorities as 'opening the church building'! If in **serious** need of the sacrament, Fr Zvonimir or myself can go to you to celebrate the sacrament outside your Home. However, an Act of Contrition may have to be sufficient for us all at this time.
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. An 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

For further updates with regards to our parish activities, always check our website <http://john23rd.com/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>

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 of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Reconciliation

Sat: 5.00-5.45pm upon request

Sacrament of the Sick

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

Devotion and Prayers

Sun 8.15am Divine Office in Blessed Sacrament Chapel
Mon 7.30pm Christ Meditation Meeting (in Parish Meeting Room) Frances Pegram 0417 406715
Tues 7pm Rosary and Novena Prayer in church
Fri 6.30pm Christ Meditation Community Meeting 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."



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.



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.reyn@gmail.com

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

	7	14	21	28	
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	
Aug	4	11	18	25	
	available	available	Sebastian	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

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

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

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:

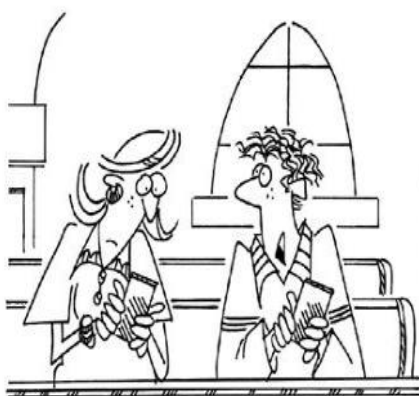
Felipe Villalba

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

Church Funnies



"The Pastor keeps referring to this morning's text' ... but which one?"

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

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.



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

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.

Prayers

As we enter into Holy Week, let's place before the Father all our needs and intentions, praying particularly for an end to the sickness and death brought about by COVID-19...

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

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

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

For the sick: that all who are suffering in mind and body may receive the healing they need at this time...LORD HEAR US

For all those who have died: that they may be redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Saviour killed for our Salvation...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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Jn 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading

Is 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24, R. v.2

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

Second Reading

Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil 2:8-9

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel (short version)

Mt 27:11-54

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

Communion Antiphon

Mt 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.



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.

Global Pulse



"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.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

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

branches
followed

clothes
Hosanna

crowd
Jerusalem

disciples
road

donkey
shouted

excited
village

YOUTH CORNER

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

BLAZE

BLAZE Youth Group is a fun and exciting way for youths in Years 7 and up to learn about their faith and how to handle the struggles of being a teen.

BLAZE runs during **Friday nights**, weeks 1,3,5,7 and 9 of the school term. Session **starts at 7:15 till 9pm.**

BLAZE YOUTH LEADERS

Youth Coordinator - Amanda Lee - 0413 545 318

Assistant Youth Coordinator - Caitlin Green - 0425 579 594

Youth Ministry Team

Natasha Surjanto

Taylor Coutinho

Johanna Neve

Johnathan Soosaipillai

Joy Ragaza

Support Leaders

Andrew Gorkic

Rebecca Reynolds

Neville Reynolds

RJ Samonte

Vidya Jolly

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

When: 3rd Sunday Praise & Worship night

Time: 4.00pm to 5.30pm

CRL YOUTH LEADERS

Rojith de Silva - 0405 956 3210

Nimeshi Fernando -0417 101 009

YFC (Youth for Christ)

When: 1st Saturday of the month - YFC Australia
3rd Sundays of the

month - YFC International

YFC YOUTH LEADERS

YFC International

Vince Erasmo - 0406 253 698

YFC Australia

Ben Lim - 0431 795 571

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



Youth Ministry

SJXXIII Youth is looking for volunteer youth facilitators who can commit to assisting with our BLAZE fortnightly sessions. Any enquiries can be sent to youth@john23rd.com.au.

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

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

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



Born to be King

The prayer of fixed times

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).

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SJ23rd Prayer Group



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cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com



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