



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens
<http://john23rd.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>



The Ascension of the Lord 24 May 2020

Message from Father John

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the great Feast of the Ascension this Sunday, we are reminded by the Scriptures to think of how this integral element of the Easter Event (Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost) affects our lives *now...*

Indeed, if we realise that Christ is now sitting at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us, then we are reassured of His supporting presence with us always.

But this reality is not offered just for our benefit, but so that we will allow the Lord's presence to prompt us to act in ways akin to His: telling all with whom we come in contact of the Father's love for His creation.

Furthermore, in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, let us strive to bring about the prayer of Jesus during the Last Supper: 'Father, may they all be one'.

Apart from a few 'teething problems', our new system for booking attendance at weekday masses seems to be working.

However, please respect the 10 person limit (apart from the ministers: Priest, Deacon, Sacristan, Minister of the Altar). **This is essential.** If you haven't booked and had your place **not** confirmed, then you can't be in the church during Mass. See details on page 2.

We need to get used to this for the foreseeable future.

Sunday mass will continue being live-streamed at 10:30am.

The Parish Office will re-open this week. Normal office hours will resume.

God bless you all. Let us continue to pray for each other - and especially let's pray for Christian Unity during this last week of Eastertide.

Fr John

Easter Offerings



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Your gift supports our parish to share Christ's message of love and salvation with all

GIVE TO YOUR PARISH

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE UPDATES ON COVID19

For more updates and useful resources visit <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#faq>

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/UCImEQLA7Nz5yhCCGedyiCLg>

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 Mass (School during school term)
+ Thurs	11.15am Mass (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 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	Christ Meditation (Meet in Parish Meeting Room) Frances Pegram 0417 406715
Tues 7pm	Rosary and Novena Prayer in church (1st 2nd Tues)
Fri 6.30pm	Christ Community Prayer (in Parish) Pauline 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."



Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Felicidad Flores

Deceased:

Deceased relatives of the Yunon Family,
Cristina Go

Anniversary:

Christina Yunon, Guillernio Ramirez,
Fraternidad Ramirez, Dulce Masangkay,
Romeo Masangkay, Juana Adversalo,
Flora Ferino, Mariano Ferino,
Tess F Rehak

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

Church Funnies



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



Newsflash! OUR CHURCH REOPENS

Following the direction of Bishop Vincent and the NSW Premier, we are able to reopen our church, subject to a number of conditions

DAILY MASS

Mass will be celebrated as follows:

Monday 9.00am

Tuesday 7.30pm

Wednesday 9.00am and 7.30pm

Thursday 9.00am and 7.30pm

Friday 9.00am and 7.30pm

Saturday 9.00am and 11.00am

Sunday 10.30am – livestream only

Maximum of 10 people in the church for mass and you will need to make a reservation – see below

- Use only the 10 designated plastic chairs
 - Do not enter the Blessed Sacrament chapel
 - Avoid touching any statues or pictures
 - Write your name, phone number and address on the form provided
 - Use the hand sanitiser after signing in
- Communion will be distributed only on the hand and by the priest walking from person to person

⇒ Sunday Mass streamed live

Preparing ourselves for the live stream:

- Before it starts read the Mass readings (can be access through our website)
- It would be good if the whole family in the house joins together in the Mass.
- Have a few moments to think what to thank the Lord for and what to offer him during this time.
- Stay in reverent gesture throughout the Mass, standing up or sitting down. Join in the prayers, responses and singing (if present). Remember that you are praying with many other fellow parishioners and more.
- At the time of Communion, make a spiritual communion

At the end of the Mass, take a moment of silence, read scriptural readings again and reflect how you can live God's Word that day.

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

All places for each mass must be pre-booked

Bookings may be requested no more than 5 days in advance

Call our Parish Secretary, Tanya, on 8883 5981 Tuesday-Friday, 10.00am - midday only
Available spaces will be allocated in the order requests are received

Only one reservation at a time will be accepted to give everyone a chance to attend mass

PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open 7.00am – 7.00pm daily Monday to Saturday

- Maximum of 10 people in the church at any one time
- Use only the 10 designated plastic chairs
- If all 10 chairs are occupied please wait outside until someone leaves
- Do not enter the Blessed Sacrament chapel
- Avoid touching any statues or pictures
- Write your name, phone number, address and time on the form provided
- Use the hand sanitiser after signing in

CONFESSION

Confession will be available in the church **9.45 – 10.30am on Saturday**

Please follow the above sign-in and sanitiser requirements

This time is between the 9.00am and 11.00am masses so penitents will need to have left the church by 11.00am

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

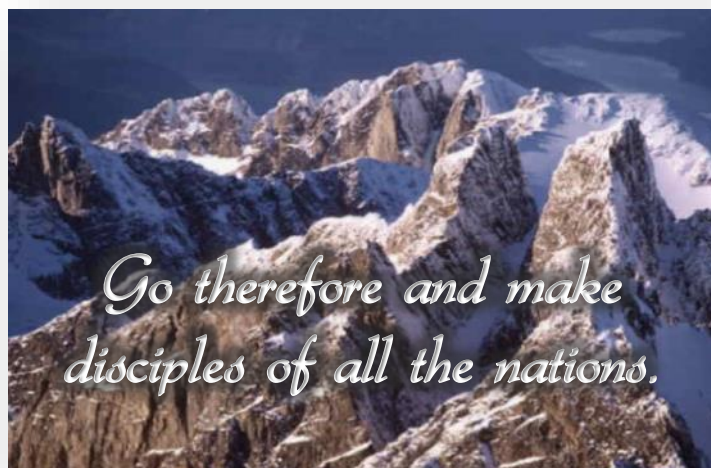
The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.



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.

⇒ Bible Study

Saint John XXIII Parish Faith Formation Team invites you to join in the first online Bible study course for our parish.

This eight-part study (30-minute sessions) provides the easiest way to understand the Bible. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible makes the complex simple. It helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture so that you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it is all about. The Bible is a story about the Father's unfailing love for you – a love that you are now called to share with others.

A group discussion follows each study session where you can share insights, discuss viewpoints, and connect with old and new friends in the parish community from the safety of your home. We will begin Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible every Saturday at 7pm. Each session will last for about 1 hour.

To register for this study send an email to the faith formation team leader Vittorio Lim at vivit.donna@gmail.com. We will send you a link to join the sessions.

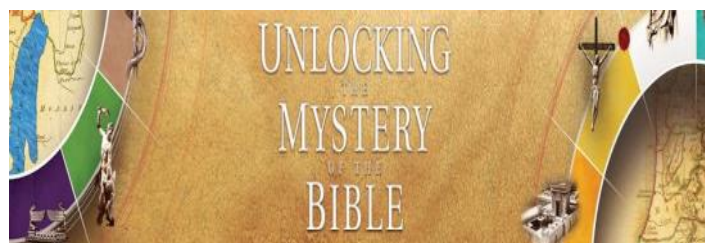
⇒ Please indicate in your email if you have not used the Zoom Teleconference service before and we will send you details for an optional set-up and orientation session. Cut and paste this link to view a trailer for the study program –<https://youtu.be/F0tAAOiCznc>

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

	5	12	19	26	
May	Thirimanne	De Jesus	Sebastian	Jacob	
Jun	2	9	16	23	30
	Cano	Shalini	Richards	Thirimanne	Jacob
Jul	7	14	21	28	
	Tanganan	Shalini	available	Jacob	
Aug	4	11	18	25	
	Thirimanne	Shalini	Sebastian	Jacob	
Sep	1	8	15	22	29
	Manoj	Lozada	Tanganan	Richards	Jacob

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



⇒ Christian Meditation

Our regular Christian Meditation Monday evenings have recommenced, now on Zoom.

Contact Frances Pegrem on 0438 072334 or email francesbelenpegrem@hotmail.com for the link to the meeting or for more information.



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



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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

"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



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

MORE YOUTH GROUPS

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

CRL YOUTH LEADERS

Rojith de Silva - 0405 956 3210

Nimeshi Fernando -0417 101 009

YFC (Youth for Christ)

YFC YOUTH LEADERS

YFC International

Vince Erasmo - 0406 253 698

YFC Australia

Ben Lim - 0431 795 571



Children's Sunday School

We would like to introduce a fortnightly Children's Sunday School for Years Five and Six and are gauging interest. Would you be interested in helping with a zoom session or do you have children who might be interested? Contact Helen at admin@john23rd.org.au.

DIOCESAN NEWS

⇒ Laudato Si' Week 16-24 May

2020 marks the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si', which was signed on 24 May 2015.

Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home, Laudato Si', is an inspiration during moments of difficulty. It encourages us to reflect on the values we share and create a more just and sustainable future.

The theme of Laudato Si' Week is "everything is connected."

During Laudato Si' Week, we come together as one people around the world to prayerfully discern the lessons of this moment. While the world experiences a historical crisis, we reflect and prepare to build a better world. At midday on Sunday May 24, we're invited to join with the rest of the world as we say a common prayer (as attached) together to mark the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'.

Watch the video message from Bishop Vincent which marks the occasion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LLWjANWHzc>

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter and find the coded words and phrase.

Thankful for God Being with Me

You can be thankful of God's

5 19 21 19
19

16 18 5 19 5 14 3 5

12 23 1 25 19
19

Code Key					
A 1	F 6	K 11	P 16	U 21	Z 26
B 2	G 7	L 12	Q 17	V 22	
C 3	H 8	M 13	R 18	W 23	
D 4	I 9	N 14	S 19	X 24	
E 5	J 10	O 15	T 20	Y 25	

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

W
O
R
D
S
E
A
R
C
H

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

eleven disciples Galilee mountain authority
Holy Spirit heaven earth Jesus go baptise observe

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

St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations. To advertise in this space, please contact the parish office



Hills Family Funerals

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Email: info@mantislandscape.com.au

Contact: 0434494450

Malta Travel Tours

Tasmania: March 2020. Only 3 couples left!

Be quick and call Monica Ledger - 9896 0712 or 0414 859386.

Gorgeous Hawaii: September 2020

Join us on a hilarious escorted tour:

Honolulu-Pearl Harbour Polynesian Culture-Maui-Hilo-Kona-Kauai.

Call Paul Vassallo 9666 6684, Mob 0416 951502.

NEW TOUR: East Canada & USA July 2020

Boston-Montreal-Quebec-Ottawa-Kingston-Toronto-Niagara Falls-Washington-New York.

Call Charlie - 9631 2689 or 0412 523893.

You get the lot: flights, hotels, food, touring, transfers and insurance.



Sales & Property Management

Joshi John 0410 066578

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SJ 23

BLAZE
YOUTH GROUP



St Vincent de Paul Society

Meets 2nd and 4th

Thursday at 7:00pm

good works



PRAISE AND WORSHIP

3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm

SJ23rd Prayer Group



Join and be
part of the

Cake Angels

contact Madeline Huang
cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com

The Holy Land Experience

12 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS. DEPARTS SAT 9TH JAN 2021

Dead Sea (2 nights) • Sea of Galilee (4) • Haifa • Mt Carmel • Mt Tabor • Cana
• Nazareth • Mt Beatitudes • Jerusalem (6) • Masada • Bethlehem • Optional
2 night Wonders of Petra Extension

Application forms at the church foyer



Accompanied by
FR JOHN MCSWEENEY



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