



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



**Third Sunday
of Advent
13 December 2020**

Reflection on Readings

The thrust of the opening lines of the first reading (Isa 61:1-2,10-11) is consistent with the topic raised last Sunday: the mission of the Lord's anointed is to "bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken, to proclaim liberty... a year of favour from the Lord". Both Sundays have an emphasis on John the Baptist, who goes before Christ, preparing people to receive him. Both Sundays emphasise that Christ comes with salvation, not with condemnation and destruction. It is indeed a good message. Today's first reading then fittingly turns into a song of joy (v.10-11) in one of the sources for Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55, parts of which form today's responsorial psalm. The Latin Vulgate uses the verb *gaudeo* (rejoice) in that section of Isaiah, the same verb forming the entrance antiphon's first word that gave this Sunday its Latin nickname, *Gaudete* (Rejoice ye). The Vulgate has the same verb at the opening of today's second reading (1 Thess 5:16-24), but our current translation uses "Be happy".

An image then presented in Isaiah is useful for us in the Southern Hemisphere. It is often claimed that our Advent is out of place seasonally because its prayers and texts were formulated in the context of the deepening winter in the Northern Hemisphere as darkness grows. There is, in fact, very little direct reference in our Advent liturgies to images of darkness and light (which does however occur in today's gospel), but preoccupation with such themes has impeded noticing other images, such as we hear today in Isaiah that "as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up". This is not the language of winter, nor of gloom, but of spring and new life. In the tropics many trees are usually still in bloom, the various Cassias in gold and pink and yellow alongside the Poinciana's scarlet and orange, not to mention the ubiquitous Bougainvillea's magenta, all creating at times a extravagantly floral cloak, bedecking the very land in festive finery, as perhaps once we ourselves might have done to prepare to receive a dignitary, or a king.

The joyful imagery of the first reading is echoed in the second reading's exhortation oriented to being ready to receive Christ when he comes (his second coming). The gospel (John 1:6-8,19-28) returns us to Christ's first coming, with that part from John's prologue that speaks both of Christ as light and of John the Baptist as his witness. We will hear this again in the Mass of Christmas Day when we read the whole of the John's prologue (John 1:1-18) that has been the feature of the Roman Rite's Christmas celebration since antiquity. This arose not from any desire to emphasise themes of light and dark during winter, but because of the work's reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation, which is at the heart of the feast. Today, the excerpt clarifies that John is not the light, and it precludes the encounter of John with the representatives of Jerusalem, in which he stresses that he is not the Christ, nor Elijah (who, having been taken to heaven rather than dying, was expected to return before the Messiah), nor the Prophet (the ambiguous Moses-like figure promised in Deuteronomy 18:15,18; see the reflection for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, A). John's "I am not" statements are a counterpoint to the later "I am" statements by Jesus in this same Gospel of John.

As for John the Baptist, so also for ourselves: in our encounters with others we are not to promote our own message, but Christ himself. This is not best done by loud preaching and hectoring, which are always a pushing of our own concerns, but by entering into personal encounter with others in a such a way that we embody and enact what we have received in Christ, and the joy of his gospel of salvation. In this way, as people moved by our own encounters with Christ, our engagement with others becomes a setting in which we then point to him by the very manner of our lives and the disposition of our hearts.

Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - Third Sunday in Advent Year B

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/c/StJohn%20XXIII%20Glenwood-StanhopeGardensParish>

Sunday Mass Times

Booking essential

Sat Vigil 6pm

Sun 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am*, 6pm

*live streamed on YouTube

Weekday Mass Times

Mon 9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Tues-Fri 9:15am Mass

Sat 9.00am Mass

Masses for Special Occasions

1st Tues 7.30pm Novena Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

1st Fri 7pm Novena Mass

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Exposition + Benediction

1st Fri after 9.15am Mass

1st Sat after 9am Mass

after the Novena Masses

Reconciliation

After any of the weekday masses

Sat: after the 9am mass until 10am

5:15 - 5:45pm before the Vigil Mass

Or upon request

Sacraments

1st Sat 9am Mass for the Sick

Sun 12pm Baptism *by appointment*

Devotions & Prayers

Mon 7.30pm Christian Meditation
via Zoom Frances Pegram 0417 406715

Tues 7pm Rosary and Novena
Prayer in the church except for 1st Tues

Fri 6.30pm Christ Catholic
Community Prayer Group
Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039

Our Parish Mission

The parish of St John XXIII is a faith community with the Eucharist as its heart.

Inspired by John XXIII's prophetic opening of the windows of the Church, we welcome the fresh air of the Holy Spirit, inviting every person to share in the responsibility of enriching the life and faith of our community by sharing their gifts and talents."



Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said,

'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Patricia Lohan

Deceased:

Donald & Sylvia Ring, Rachel Caberte,
Kochappan Chariyekkara,
Annamma Kochappan

Anniversary:

Vivencio Quisumbing, Juliette Quisumbing,
Irene Cherry, Cecilia Dantes, Louis Dantes

Sick: Names published with permission.

Colleen McCunnie, Benjamin Munson Jr,
Maria Romeo, Pat Doyle, Deidre Thomson,
Florentina Elisura, Anshu Mala Nand,
Elizabeth Candame, Christina Properzi,
Nathan Parker, Greg Marcellana, Jim Daley,
Gustavo Montenegro, Marcelino Matteazzi,
Kim Anika, Arlene Caraballo, Kristy Arceo,
Virginia Santos, Perla Magculang, Kalayani,
Karam Matte, Karam Sarsam, Praba Daniel,
Elizabeth Newnes, Raymond Lanzona,
Gloria Buosi, Hazel Masher, Dung Phan,
Jill Franco, Bernie Presto, Elmo Joachim,
Geoffrey Robinson, Nathan Braganza,
Zenira D'Souza, Sophie De Leon,
Vince & Princess Ramos and Family,
Isagani Ocampo

Thanksgiving:



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.

Church Calendar

December

Mon	14	<i>Saint John of the Cross (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Tues	15	9:15am - Mass 7pm - Novena Prayers <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	16	6am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass 7pm - Parish Reconciliation
Thurs	17	6am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Fri	18	6am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Sat	19	6am - Mass of the Rooster 9am - Mass <i>with Confession to follow after Mass</i> 5:15pm - Confession 6pm - Vigil Mass 7:30pm - Praise & worship
Sun	20	Sunday Mass times 7:30, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

COVID-19 NOTICES



NSW Health has revised the COVID-19 guidelines for places of worship effective from 7 December 2020

1) Places of Worship and Religious Services

The maximum number of people at places of worship and religious services will only be limited by the 2 square metre rule. If a place of public worship has separate buildings, the maximum number of people in each separate building is subject to the 2 square metre rule. If there are separate buildings, each building should have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

2) Weddings and Funerals

There will be no upper cap on the number of people who can attend weddings and funerals, provided the new 2 square metre rule is adhered to.

3) Choir and Congregational Singing

Up to 50 singers/performers will be permitted to sing indoors. There will be no maximum cap for outdoor singing. Congregations may sing, but NSW Health continues to ask that anyone 12 years or older to wear a mask.

Communion on the tongue

NSW Health advised for places of worship to please consider modifying religious services, where practical, such as Communion, to avoid direct contact with the hand and mouth.

WEEKDAY MASSES do not require any on-line booking. Sign in to register attendance, whether for mass or for visitation. Registration sheet and hand sanitizers can be found as you enter. **Entry and exit is via the rear doors.**

WEEKEND MASSES (Sunday Vigil and Sunday Masses) still require **ONLINE BOOKING** via

Eventbrite

(<https://john23rd.eventbrite.com.au/>)

until such time that COVID legislation changes.

10:30am Sunday Mass is being live streamed

Please arrive 15mins before the mass times to give time for registration confirmation.

Arriving early will also give you time for reflection and prayer, quiet your thoughts before we start our communion with God.

Doors will close at start of Mass.

Entrance and exit is via the front door.

If you are not feeling well, please DO NOT come into church.

It is highly recommended to wear face mask at church, 12 years old and above.

We encourage everyone to contribute financially as you leave by using the *TapnGo* machines or online via BPoint. We have *TapnGo* at both the doors. We also have collection boxes at the front door.

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE UPDATES ON COVID19

THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA ENCOURAGES YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR LIFE OF PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH DESPITE CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURES.

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

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"

If you want the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home, please contact Bart Sarlabus via email bart.sarlabus@gmail.com or Melva Paguinto emcipi85@yahoo.com.au

Novena prayers 7pm every Tuesday
Novena mass 7:30pm every First Tuesday

Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights

Dec	1	8	15	22	29
	Paguinto M	Shalini	Richards	Jacob	Jacob
Jan	5	12	19	26	
	Barnouti	Ring	Richards	Sebastian	
Feb	2	9	16	23	
	Tangunan	Sebastian	Shalini	Jacob	
Mar	2	9	16	23	30
	Cano	Paguinto	Richards	Shalini	Jacob
Apr	6	13	20	27	
	Deang	Erasmus	Sebastian	Shalini	
May	4	11	18	25	
	Manalo	Javelosa	Sebastian	Jacob	

Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.

"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

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mahatma Gandhi

We are in urgent need for volunteers to assist in the different pastoral ministries in our Parish.



⇒ 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.

⇒ GARDENERS AND CLEANERS

Garden Bees - our gardens look magnificent thanks to the work of our abled parishioners but more help is needed. The commitment would be whatever time you can spare - a few hours a fortnight to assist in the maintenance of the church's garden surrounds.

Cleaners - we have four teams of cleaners who clean the church on a monthly cycle and four teams who clean the votive candle stands every few months. Both groups need more bodies to help out, urgently. The commitment would be a few hours each month.

For more information contact maintenance@john23rd.org.au

CHRISTMAS MASSES

We need more helpers during the Christmas Masses which will be held in two venues. If you are interested in helping please contact the parish office on 8883 5981 or call Wira Peiris on 0424 738 484.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

⇒ DONATIONS TO STOCK PANTRY

Thank you for your continuing assistance in providing donations for our St Vinnies Pantry.

We are at present very low on supply and we are once more appealing to your generosity to restock our pantry for Christmas and the new year.

Following is the list of the food articles we are most in need of - **pasta, sauce, coffee, tea, ham, fruit in juice, rice, biscuits, oil, milo, salmon, tinned spaghetti, tinned baked beans, sugar and cereal**. Any enquires please call parish office on 8883 5981.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chairman

Gary Lee

Dep Chairman

Bernadette Virwani

Secretary

Julienne Crasto

Members

Bing Catabas

Chris Drummond

Margaret Harrison

Nanette Gamboa

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 envelope system. This will be very helpful for Budgeting.

Parish Notices

MASS OF THE ROOSTER

Christmas season is upon us and it's that time of year, mark your calendar.

16th December till 24th December at 6am Novena mass with the exception of Sunday 20th December which will be included at the 7:30am mass.

Bring a plate to share for breakfast. Come and join us.



CHRISTMAS MASSES REGISTRATION

Registration for the Christmas masses are now open through **Eventbrite**.

Most of the masses will be held at St Marks Catholic College Performance Hub to allow us to accommodate more parishioners.

24th December 2020 mass times

6pm - Children/family mass - the Hub

6pm - St John 23rd Church

(note 2 venues for the 6pm mass)

9pm - the Hub

12am (midnight) - the Hub



25th December 2020 mass times

8.30am - the Hub

8.30am - St John 23rd Church

10:30am - the Hub

10.30 am - St John 23rd Church

(Depending on the numbers we might only have one mass for 8.30 and 10.30am if the numbers are over the limit there will be two 8.30 and 10.30am masses)

Please read the instructions provided on registration. If you have been to any of the COVID-19 hot spots declared by the NSW Government please follow the NSW government directions and do not attend mass.

Again, it is highly recommended to wear a face mask, 12 years old and over.

DAY OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

16th December, Wednesday at
7.00 pm onwards - Parish
Reconciliation day



Our Parish Faith Formation team will conduct an **ADVENT RETREAT** in the church.

As Christmas draws closer, we need to take a breather and pause for a while to make sure we stay close to the true meaning of the season.

Topic - **How to Discern God's Will**

Date - **Friday 18 th December 2020**

Place - **Saint John XXIII Parish Church**

Time - **8:00pm to 9:30 pm**

In this Advent Retreat, we will view a short video entitled "How to Discern God's Will" together as a group. We will then share our thoughts and experiences so we can learn from each other and encourage one another.

This retreat will help us by giving us some insights on how we can find and accept God's purpose and will for us.

For more information please contact Vitt Lim at vivit.donna@gmail.com.

If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in your home please contact the parish office.

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

Office Contacts

(02) 8883 5981

0423 160567 (AH Emergency)

160 Perfection Avenue,
Stanhope Gardens, 2768

MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,
NSW 2768

CLERGY

Parish Priest:

Fr Jolly Chacko

✉ jolly@john23rd.org.au

Assistant 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

✉ sacramental@john23rd.org.au

Operations Manager:

Daphney Fernandes

✉ operations@john23rd.org.au

OTHER CONTACTS

Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ maintenance@john23rd.org.au

Columbarium queries:

Nina Pangilinan

✉ columbarium@john23rd.org.au

Communication queries:

Techie Sarlabus

✉ communications@john23rd.org.au

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish
community!

Please take a welcome envelope pack
from the front entrance.

Visit our website <http://john23rd.com/>

Like our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/john23rdparish

View our livestreams via YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohn%20](https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohn%20XXIII%20Glenwood-StanhopeGardensParish)

[XXIII%20Glenwood-StanhopeGardensParish](https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohn%20XXIII%20Glenwood-StanhopeGardensParish)

SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and
constructive suggestions.

⇒ **Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update**

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures and other safety measures. We also highly recommend wearing masks to Mass and other services. You are encouraged to check with your parish on what measures they have in place before attending. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

⇒ **Welcome to The Well**

The Diocese of Parramatta proudly announces its latest initiative – *The Well*. In what can be described as ‘Netflix for Catholics’, The Well is a new online platform that provides free, ‘on-demand’ inspiration for families, children, young people and faith communities. Explore fresh offerings every week on topical issues that inform, entertain and challenge. Check it out at www.thewell.org.au

⇒ **Office for Worship Resources available**

The Office For Worship has a range of resources available for purchase for individuals and parishes. Resources such as parent material for a child’s baptism and a collation of prayers can be purchased from the Office For Worship by contacting (02) 8838 3457.

⇒ **Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive**

Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome are dealing with a 400% increase in emergency assistance calls and are needing to feed over 1,000 people facing destitution each week. You can help by running a food and toiletry drive or donating yourself. For more information, contact Patrice Moriarty 0409 399505 or House of Welcome office@houseofwelcome.com.au or JRS amelia.savage@jrs.org.au

⇒ **Bishop’s Christmas Appeal**

This Christmas, let us unite in demonstrating God’s unconditional love and keep families together. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare’s Project Elizabeth to support vulnerable families to build strong, loving relationships. You can help give people the emotional and practical support they need to live their lives in love and joy. Please give generously to the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal: yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

⇒ **Life, Marriage and Family Office Marriage Preparation Courses**

Dates for the Diocesan Life, Marriage and Family Office’s in-person marriage preparation weekend courses in 2021 are now available, with the SmartLoving Engaged Online course another option to prepare for your marriage. For more information, or to book your course, visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or call (02) 8838 3460.

⇒ **Young Adult Faith Formation: 6 December**

Young Adult faith formation sessions continue on Sunday 6 December at The Hustle, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury, at 7pm. Seminarian Andrew Rooney will speak and lead discussion on virtue ethics, particularly the theological virtues of faith, hope and love. We encourage all adults 18-35 to come along and enjoy some faith formation and fellowship! Call Mark on 0477 004 678 for more information.

⇒ **Permanent Diaconate Information Session: 12 Dec**

Couples considering a call to the Permanent Diaconate are invited to attend an information session on Saturday 12 December from 10am - 12noon at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown. Couples who decide to proceed with the discernment process will be asked to meet with the Vocations Committee in 2021. To RSVP, please contact Deacon Willy Limjap on 0428 332619 or wlimjap@gmail.com or Deacon George Bryan on 0408 440769 or George.Bryan@parracatholic.org

Other

⇒ **Positions Vacant:**

Head of Mission Integration – Caritas Australia

For more details, please visit

<https://www.caritas.org.au/about/jobs/positions-vacant>

⇒ **Donate to Caritas’ Asia Emergency Appeal**

Caritas Australia’s thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia, who have been devastated by unprecedented flooding. Homes have been destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing to evacuation centres, where the risks of spreading COVID-19 are high. With your help, Caritas can provide vital support to those affected by this and other disasters. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.

⇒ **Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre is taking bookings for 2020/2021**

As a COVID-safe registered business, the Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa, is once again available for personal or small group bookings to discern and plan for what the future might look like. They have also begun taking bookings for 2021, with numbers set to increase as restrictions return to normal. For more information, please call (02) 4773 8338, email info@schoenstatt.org.au or visit www.schoenstatt.org.au

⇒ **Vote to authorise The Sydney Statement**

After numerous workshops and drafts over 18 months, Youth PoWR (Parliament of the World’s Religions) launched The Sydney Statement, a new charter for interfaith relations on Thursday 15 October. Young adults aged 18-35 from different religions are encouraged to vote for The Sydney Statement and to authorise its publication. Don’t miss out on this chance to transform interfaith relations in Sydney and beyond.

Voting is online at <http://bit.ly/33OLrHLA>

YOUTH MINISTRY

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



OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

John XXIII & 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

Catholic Youth Parramatta engaging young people in new ways

Catholic Youth Parramatta has established a dynamic schedule of networking opportunities, formation and resources to support ministry and engagement with young people of the Diocese in new ways. From inspiring quotes and scripture references on Mondays, to faith-filled live performances on Wednesday to launching new home-grown resources on Friday. Check out CYP's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Download and utilise resources created by Catholic Youth Parramatta <https://www.parracatholic.org/cyp-resources/>

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

For all youth ministry enquiries, ✉ blaze@john23rd.org.au or visit our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/> 👍

MORE YOUTH GROUPS

CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

CRL YOUTH LEADERS

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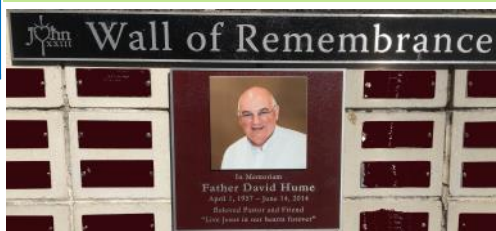
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