



Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

<http://john23rd.com/>

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



Baptism of the Lord 10 January 2020

Reflection on Readings

The feast of the Baptism is part of an ancient epiphany cycle with the accounts of the Magi (last Sunday), the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:41-52), the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11), the feeding of the crowds (Matt 8:1-3), and Jesus on the lake (Matt 8:23-27). Each was understood as revealing Christ. Before the liturgical reform we used John's account of the baptism, where the Baptist says "Behold the Lamb of God" and "This is God's Son"—both statements of revelation. In the reformed Lectionary we read this year Mark 1:7-11, in which we hear the voice from heaven say to Jesus, "You are my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

We can approach this in different ways. First, we witness a private moment, as if eavesdropping on the Father speaking to the Son, in contrast to Matthew who has the voice speak *about* Jesus, and thus speaking to the audience and reader. Second, we may see the trinitarian image here when we remember in John that Jesus is called "the Word": the heavenly one speaks, the action by which a mind conveys words into the world by the power of the breath (which is what "Spirit" means). Here then, through the Spirit moving in the world, the Father confirms in word that Jesus is the Son. This epiphany is about Jesus, but it is also trinitarian. Third, the words spoken are adapted from Isaiah 42:1, the opening line of the first Servant Song in which, as mentioned last Sunday, he is appointed as "light to the nations". That forms the first reading in Year A (Isa 42:1-4, 6-7), but it can be read each year.

The *ad libitum* reading for Year B is Isaiah 55:1-11, which, in addition to the call to repentance that fits the Baptist's ministry, also refers to "a witness to the peoples/nations", a phrase related to "light of the nations". However, there is something odd in our translation, for contrary to our version's "I have made *you* a witness", the Hebrew, Greek and Latin agree in reading "I made *him* a witness", referring to David, or the king from his line, whom we acknowledge to be Jesus. The mission of those in this new and everlasting covenant is to gather a new nation, a new collective of people from all nations.

Instead of being followed by a psalm, we have the hymn from Isaiah 12:2-6, which, beyond shared references to water, is linked by the related words in the Hebrew for *witness* and *make known*. These allow us to read two of the hymn's phrases as "witness among the peoples to his deeds" and "witness this in all the earth". So, last Sunday's universalist themes, of Israel, its King, and its people each being light and witnesses to all peoples, continue in today's readings.

The second reading for Year B (1 John 5:1-9) introduces something else. It too refers to water, but, rather than pointing to baptism, its combination with blood points to the author of John's gospel report of the death of Jesus when water and blood flow from his pierced heart. But something in the opening lines distracts those cautious with translations: the second line reads more literally "whoever loves the begotter loves the begotten". In Greek, grammar is possessed of gender, but not always of sex. The Greek is far more general than our translation. The distinction is important because John is not speaking exclusively of Jesus as begotten of God, as the next clause makes clear, (literally) "By this we know that we love God's children; when we love God". John is referring to loving each other, saying in effect: those who know Jesus are the children of God, and those who love God love the children of God, and the only way to show love for God is to love God's children, both in Jesus and in fellow Christians, and indeed in all others. It seems John was prompted to write from concerns about how Christians were dealing with each other, which explains the emphasis on Christians. But there is no foundation to interpret this as applicable exclusively to Christians. John is the New Testament theologian par excellence of the Incarnation; here he has poetically blurred the line between the Only-Begotten Son and all God's children, however they may be defined, and in so doing he locates the place to love God as here, the time as now, and the context as the relationship with those made in God's image. And indeed, in listening carefully to the gospel we may hear ourselves referred to as "My child, the beloved", or as it is put in the prayer after Communion, that "faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son we may be your children in name and in truth."

Text: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - Baptism of the Lord - Year B

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."



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%20XXIIIGlenwood-StanhopeGardensParish>

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

Come to the water; listen to my words and you shall have life.

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his ways, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-6

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-9

The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth - so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf John 1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:7-11

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit'.

It was this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



Special intentions

Recently Deceased:

Nishantha Fernando

Deceased:

Serafin Arceo, Lancelot Dias

Anniversary:

Sonny Olares

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, Dung Phan, Jill Franco, Raymond Lanzona, Geoffrey Robinson, Gloria Buosi, Hazel Masher, Bernie Presto, Sophie De Leon, Nathan Braganza, Zenira D'Souza, Elmo Joachim, Vince & Princess Ramos and Family, Isagani Ocampo

Thanksgiving:

Aleykutty Sebastian, Virwani Family

COVID-19 NOTICES



Please check out the following sites for any and all updates:

NSW Health COVID site

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infections/covid-19/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>

NSW Government site <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

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

It is **MANDATORY** to wear face mask at church, 12 years old and above.

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. Or you can scan the QRCode posted by the doors. **Entry and exit is via the rear doors.**

WEEKEND MASSES (Saturday 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 streamed live via our YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohn%20XXIII%20Glenwood-StanhopeGardensParish>

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.

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>



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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

NSW Health has revised the COVID-19 guidelines for all places of worship.

1) Places of Worship and Religious Services

Effective from midnight tonight - 2 January 2021, the maximum number of people who can attend religious gatherings will be limited to 1 person per 4 square metres up to a maximum of 100 people. Weddings and funerals will also be limited to 1 person per 4 square metres up to a maximum of 100 people.

2) Face masks

Face masks will also be made mandatory at places of worship from midnight tonight.

From Monday, 4 January 2021, non-compliance with wearing face masks will attract a \$200 on-the-spot-fine for individuals.

Children under 12 are exempt but are encouraged to wear masks where practicable.

With my continued prayers during these times,

Very Rev Peter G. Williams

Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Church Calendar

January

Mon	11	9:15am - Liturgy of the Word
Tues	12	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Prayers <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	13	9:15am - Mass
Thurs	14	9:15am - Mass
Fri	15	9:15am - Mass
Sat	16	9am - Mass <i>with Confession to follow after Mass</i> 5:15pm - Confession 6pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	17	Sunday Mass times 7:30, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

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 favour 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

	5	12	19	26	
Jan	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	
Jun	1	8	15	22	29
	Paguinto	Shalini	Richards	Barnouti	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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

⇒ THANK YOU

Thank you to all our Parishioners that assisted with the Christmas Hampers. We were able to assist over 48 families and we gave a donation to House of Welcome and a few donations to other charities.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

Paying our debt together

First Collection - for the diocese. This is used for the support of priests and deacons of the Diocese.

Second Collection - for the parish. This is used to meet our parish running costs of the church and provide for ministry expenses; it is also needed to pay off our church mortgage. 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.

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.

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary – Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath

Applications close 15 January 2021

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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

Catholic Outlook Magazine Summer 2020/21 Edition

Catholic Outlook Summer edition is out now and free to all parishioners. Read about our amazing HSC students, the new bells of St Patrick’s Cathedral and how the new Vatican Ambassador who originates from Castle Hill is settling in. Plus what the symbols of Advent really mean. Pick up your free copy from your local Catholic Church, Catholic School or Catholic office today.

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 399 505 or House of Welcome office@houseofwelcome.com.au or JRSamelia.savage@jrs.org.au

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 Smart Loving 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.

Office For Worship 2021 Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office for Worship’s Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held again in 2021 in early February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving in the Liturgical Ministries of Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar at your parish. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on 8838 3456 or anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org.

RCIA: Exploring the Scrutinies Workshop: 10 February

The Office For Worship will be running an RCIA workshop on the Scrutinies for RCIA coordinators and teams early next year on the evening of Wednesday 10 February at the Institute For Mission, Blacktown (IFM). If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org

Other

Summer Nights 2021: 11 – 13 and 14 – 16 January 2021

The Summer Schools of Evangelisations around Australia are hosting a program for young people aged 16 to 35 at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, in January 2021. The non-live-in outdoor event will feature Mass, prayer, music and talks and will run from 3pm to 9pm on 11-13 January 14-16 January. For more information, visit summerschool.org.au/summernights

Ignatian Spirituality in a time of Engagement Conference: 25 – 27 January

Jesuit College of Spirituality and Newman College invite you to the ‘Ignatian Spirituality in a time of Engagement’ three-day online conference from 25-27 January. The full conference pass is \$200, with a single day pass at \$75 per day. Registrations are now open, so visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BMYUO>. For enquiries, please contact enquiries@jcs.edu.au or phone (03) 9448 8276.

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 21 – 22 February

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 21 – 22 February 2021 at St Joseph’s Baulkham Hills. For further information and to register, visit www.engagedencounter.org.au/

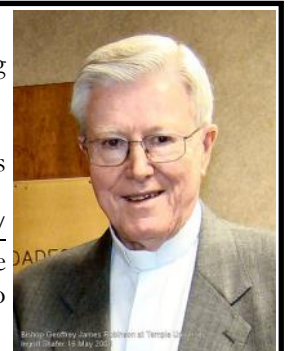
Bishop Robinson returns to the Father at 83

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, a former auxiliary bishop of Sydney, died on 29 December after a long battle with terminal illness. He was 83.

Funeral Mass details:

The funeral Mass for Bishop Robinson will be held on Wednesday 6 January at 11am at St Joseph’s Parish in Enfield, where the Bishop lived in retirement.

The Mass will be livestreamed via the parish website or can be viewed at www.FuneralVideo.com.au/BishopGeoffrey. After reserved seating for clergy, families and dignitaries, limited seating will be available for parishioners and visitors. There will be seating outdoors and in the parish hall due to COVID social distancing requirements. Refreshments will be provided. (Catholic Weekly)



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

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

Rojith de Silva - 0405 956 3210

Nimeshi Fernando -0417 101009

YFC (Youth for Christ)

YFC YOUTH LEADERS

YFC International

Vince Erasmo - 0406 253 698

YFC Australia

Ben Lim - 0431 795 571

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

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

✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

**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



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%20XXIII%20Glenwood-StanhopeGardensParish>

SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and
constructive suggestions.

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

EILEEN O'CONNOR

THE PATH TO CANONISATION

Eileen O'Connor, known as 'Little Mother' by the members of the congregation she founded, has long been considered by many to be a 'saint-in-waiting'. And now, her holiness and virtue have been recognised by the Holy See and the cause for her canonisation opened by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

On 17 August 2018, the Archdiocese of Sydney announced:

"Australia is one step closer to getting its next saint with the Vatican advancing the cause for Sydney woman Eileen O'Connor to the title Servant of God."

"The significant announcement comes just months after Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, began the formal process for the beatification of Eileen when he appointed Rome-based priest, Father Anthony Robbie, in March as postulator – the person who guides the cause for beatification or canonisation through the Church's rigorous processes for recognising a person as a saint."

"Eileen's was a life of immense suffering and judged by today's standards many would have viewed it as lacking in dignity, value or hope," said Archbishop Fisher.

"That she is on her way to possibly being our next saint shows even a short life, marked by incredible suffering, can be an inspiration to all and reminds us of the dignity of every human life."

On 10 October 2019, Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher OP, issued an edict calling on Sydney Catholics to aid the Archdiocese with information for the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor. The Cause was officially opened after a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on 20 February 2020, the 128th anniversary of Eileen's birthday.

The next steps in Eileen O'Connor's path to sainthood are being recognised for having lived a life of heroic virtue (at that stage, she would be called Venerable), and then beatification, which requires a verified miracle (at that stage, she would be called Blessed). The final stage is canonisation, which requires a second miracle attributed to the candidate after beatification.

Born in Melbourne 1892, Eileen suffered from a severe curvature of the spine and was – at best – 115 cm (3'9") tall, although for much of her life she could not stand or walk. It is now known Eileen suffered from transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord.

With limited education and no formal theological formation, she embodied a distinctive spirituality marked by an unwavering devotion to Our Lady and her willingness to devote her suffering to Our Lady's work.

Eileen's beautiful spirit inspired many people to seek her guidance and prayers. She listened to them, understood their problems and gave wise advice. There are numerous anecdotal and documented accounts of Eileen's intercession in answering the prayers of the faithful.

Eileen died on 10 January 1921, aged just 28 years. Her body was found to be incorrupt when it was exhumed from Randwick Cemetery for reinterment in the chapel at Our Lady's Home, Coogee, 15 years later.

Eileen's legacy – the mission of Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor over the past 100 years – ranks among the great and enduring social works of Caroline Chisholm and Saint Mary MacKillop.

In 2017, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney, approved the following two prayers for the beatification of Eileen O'Connor:

Great and Merciful God, through the maternal love of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you inspired your servant Eileen O'Connor, to care for the sick and dying poor and to serve your Church through spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Listen graciously to our prayers, and grant that Eileen may be raised to the glory of your altar. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for your faithful servant Eileen O'Connor. By your grace she united her sufferings to Christ and her prayers to Mary. With great patience she inspired and called other women to be devoted to the care of the sick and dying poor, both in body and in spirit. We humbly ask that the Little Mother, Eileen, who by her ceaseless prayer and suffering inspired others to live the Gospel, may be lifted up and counted among your saints in heaven. Graciously hear our prayers through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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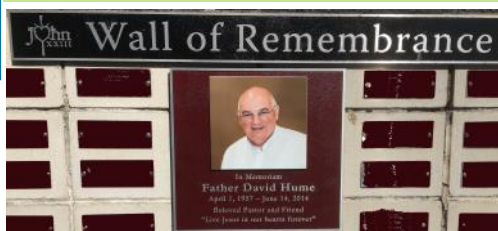
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