

Cnr Perfection Ave and Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens

http://john23rd.com/ https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/



First Sunday of Advent 28 November 2021

Each of the Lectionary cycles ends in the midst of end-time warnings and a focus on the second coming of Christ, which then continues in Advent even as we change Gospels. The confusing effect of this is most pronounced this year, because as we switch to Luke we hear his version of what we read from Mark two Sundays ago (Mark 13:24-32), but without Luke's parallel to the fig-tree section. Even though the common theme of the First Sunday of Advent ("the Lord's coming at the end of time" as stated in the 2014 Homiletic Directory) has thus already been pre-empted, the Lectionary offers another reference to the coming of Christ with his saints in the second reading (1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2). However, it does so with a view to its fulfilment here and now; instead of being overly concerned with that future time, Paul sees the current life as the time when that heavenly life is to be lived, not merely as a practising of what we would like to have but because it is right now. Those days and that time promised in the first reading (Jeremiah 33:14-16) are already here, for that virtuous Branch of David (called the Root of Jesse (father of David) in Isaiah 11:1,10), has come, and so the promise is fulfilled. The coming of the Kingdom is therefore not to be imagined as some future event, for to all those who love God it is here and now. This is consistent with the message proclaimed at the very beginning of Christ's public ministry, that the Kingdom "is very near" or "is among you". Recognition of this should give his disciples the courage needed to tackle, and seek to make right, the ills of this world, now; and due to human fragility and weakness there will be no end to this work: the work of salvation will ever be unfolding. When the gospel mentions "the cares of life" it does not mean the works by which we take care of things in the world. Some have read it that way, and so have deduced that Christians do not need to be engaged with the world's social ills. Behind our translation as "cares" is a word that means distractions or anxieties. These are presented as destructive in the same way that debauchery and drunkenness are. Whatever the social ills may be, the Christian, continuing the work of Christ and with an eye to his return at any time, is to take care of them, to bring healing and to manifest the integrity of his rule, to which we have already submitted.

Text: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - First Sunday of Advent - Year C

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas. Catholic Care's Houses to Homes provides hope for vulnerable women and children facing abuse and hardship. Your kind donation today will help change the lives of homeless young women, who like Mary, seek a safe haven to raise their newborn child.

Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal giving envelopes or online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Thank you for your heartfelt prayers and support.



Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 6pm

Sun 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am,

Weekday Mass Times

 Mon
 8.30am

 Tues-Fri
 9:15am

 Sat
 9.00am

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

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

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my Saviour. **R**.

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R**.

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. **R**.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel

. . . .

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Yvonne Redden

Deceased:

Nimal Mahendrarajah

Anniversary:

Pavi Sebastian, Margaret Fernandes, Simon Francis

Sick: Names published with permission.

Fr Kevin Walsh, Natividad Reyes, Pat Doyle, Maria Romeo, Kristy Arceo, Iyrika D'Cruz, Owen Rogers, Dragica Julich, Virginia Santos Colleen McCunnie, Tony Muscat, Bev Lewis, Elizabeth Candame, Raymond Lanzona, Christina Properzi, Geoffrey Robinson, Elizabeth Newnes, Florentina Elisura, Anshu Mala Nand, Deidre Thomson, Greg Marcellana, Zenira D'Souza, Mavie Dela Cruz, Perla Magculang, Sophie De Leon, Isagani Ocampo, Gloria Bueno

Thanksgiving:

Virwani Family



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

Church Calendar

November

Mon	29	8:30am - Mass
Tues	30	Saint Andrew (F)

30 Saint Andrew (F)9:15am - Mass7:00pm - Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

December

Wed	1	9:15am - Mass
Thurs	2	9:15am - Mass
Fri	3	Saint Francis Xavier (M) 9:15am - Mass 6.30pm - Holy Communion
Sat	4	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass

Sun 5 7:30am 9:00am 10:30 - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

Mass booking via Eventbrite not required due to the easing of rules by NSW Health.

First come first served will apply. Mask still required.

Weddings and Funerals, if not fully vaccinated, by NSW regulations only 10 people will be allowed.

COVID-19 NOTICES

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

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pageslatestupdates.aspx



https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

Check in and help keep everyone safe

For ease on contact tracing, as per NSW COVID regulation, a QR Code is displayed at both church doors for scanning purposes.



Doors to swing open as NSW continues to get the jab done

In response to the faster-than-expected rate of vaccination, the NSW Government will further **ease rules for those who are <u>fully vaccinated</u>** by bringing forward many of the roadmap changes scheduled for 1 December to Monday 8 November.

These freedoms will only be available for people who are <u>fully vaccinated</u>, including those who have medical exemptions and children under the age of 16. <u>COVID Safe check-ins and proof of vaccination will still be required.</u>

Those who are not fully vaccinated must still abide by pre-roadmap restrictions until the State reaches the 95 per cent double vaccination target, or 15 December, whichever happens first.

The current settings for masks, which apply to everyone, will remain in place until the State reaches the 95 per cent double vaccination target, or 15 December, whichever happens first.

Weddings

Weddings in NSW may have up to:

- 1 person per 2 square metres of space for indoor and outdoor areas.
- All people attending a wedding must be fully vaccinated (except for small wedding services).

Do not attend a wedding that exceeds the capacity limits.

People who are fully vaccinated do not have to be seated while consuming food and drink.

Dancing is permitted.

You can attend a wedding anywhere in NSW.

- If you are fully vaccinated you can attend a wedding, so long as the capacity limit is not exceeded. You must:
- carry vaccination evidence with you and produce it for inspection to a police officer or authorised officer if requested;
- check in with the Service NSW app or provide your contact details to the occupier
- follow the face mask rules.

Funerals and memorial services

Funerals and memorial services in NSW may have up to:

- 1 person per 2 square metres of space for indoor and outdoor areas.
- All people attending the funeral service must be fully vaccinated, (except for small funeral or memorial services).
- Do not attend a funeral or memorial service that exceeds the capacity limits.
- People who are fully vaccinated do not have to be seated while consuming food and drink.

You can attend a funeral or memorial service anywhere in NSW.

If you are fully vaccinated you can attend a funeral or memorial service, so long as the capacity limit is not exceeded. You must carry vaccination evidence with you and produce it for inspection to a police officer or authorised officer if requested; check in with the Service NSW app or provide your contact details to the occupier follow the face mask rules.

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/#faa

Parish Pastoral/Ministry Corner

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 except every First Tuesday it's a Novena mass 7:30pm

		Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights					
	Nov	2	9	16	23	30	
		Gan	Barnouti	Ring	Jacob	Melva	
	Dec	7	14	21	28		
		Jacob	Richards	Richards	Richards		
	Jan	4	11	18	25		
		Deang	Lozada	Javelosa	Cano		
	Feb	1	8	15	22		
		Tangunan	Sebastian	Ring	Jacob		
	Mar	1	8	15	22	29	
		Jayakody	Paguinto	Richards	Shalini	Jacob	
	Apr	5	12	19	26		
		Barnouti	Erasmo B	Ring	Shalini		

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 Deacon Andrew on andrew @john23rd.org.au or the Parish Office.

⇒ 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 needs more bodies to help out, urgently. The commitment would be a few hours each month. For more information contact maintenance@john23rd.org.au

\Rightarrow 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.

⇒ WEEKDAY WARRIORS

The church pews are undergoing refurbishment. We are looking for volunteers to help carry some pews down to the basement where they are being repaired. If you can assist, please let Fr Jolly know or call the parish office.

⇒ 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 SJ23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds at naomi1.rey@gmail.com



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chairman
Gary Lee
Dep Chairman
Bernadette Virwani
Secretary
Julienne Crasto

Members Bing Catabas Chris Drummond Margaret Harrison Nanette Gamboa



Parking Reminder

Please make sure when you come to Mass, let us consider our neighbours. Do not block the neighbours' driveway.

Paying our debt together

FIRST COLLECTION – for the support of the priests and deacons of the Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION – 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.

Planned Giving Program as part of the second collection

A Planned giving Program is in place to help us with the planning/budgeting for the church expenses. To register, an **SJ23rd form** is available at the church fover or the website.

The Parish Finance Committee encourages all parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions instead of the envelope system.

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.

SPONSOR A PEW

WE are refurbishing our church pews, as a cheaper alternative, to make mass attendance more comfortable and safe for everyone in the parish.

On this note, we would like to invite parishioners, if able, to sponsor a pew. It can be in memory of a deceased loved ones and wish to be remembered or it

could be your family's gift to the parish community. It could also be a way of thanking God for the graces of a lovely family you have and the blessings you received from the Lord. Each pew will cost from \$2,500 each.

To remember the donor family and their loved ones, a small memorial plaque or Donated by plaque will be placed on each Pew, upon request. If you are interested please contact the Parish office on 8883 5981

Are you looking for answers to infertility?

Come and see! Be amazed! Women's health science that has the potential for you to unravel the mystery of your cycle

Husbands, you're welcome too

7.30pm | Wednesday 17 November 2021



Job Vacancies

- Could you share the stories of suffering Christians?
- Are you looking for flexible part time work?

Aid to the Church in Need is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across the Archdiocese.

For all details visit, www.aidtochurch.org/work

YOU ARE INVITED!

St John 23rd have organised a community Mass on Saturday December 4th at 6pm in the HUB*. It has been a long and challenging year for many people, and so we wanted our Parish and School community to come together, celebrate Mass and reconnect over some light refreshments. Below flyer has some detail, scan the QR code and RSVP your attendance.



We would love to see you there!!!

*Please note: this event will be taking place on our St John XXIII school premise and therefore are bound by the CEDP School's COVID Safe plan. This plan stipulates that all individuals coming onto our school site must be double vaccinated; check in via a NSW Health QR code; and must wear a mask indoors.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

It is Christmas time once again!

We are reaching out for your generosity this festive season to share joy to our less privileged families.

Instead of groceries, may we have donation using our **QR code** hanging at the Christmas tree (at the foyer) or scan it here. Upon scanning and it will direct you to our Vinnies fundraising page.

Please note that the amount displayed on the screen is the total donation to date. Just click on **GIVE NOW** and select your donation amount (at the bottom is an option for any amount) then select **NEXT** to proceed for payment. Include your email address for the invoice to be sent automatically.



Diocesan News

Bishops Christmas Appeal

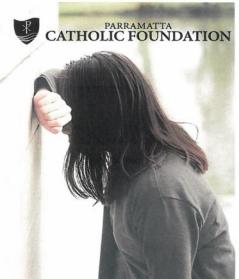
Dear Parishioners

Our Parish is proud to support Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Funds raised through Parramatta Catholic Foundation will enable CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to support vulnerable young pregnant women who are facing hardship, abuse and homelessness – so that they and their children can face the future with hope, safety and security.

We invite you in this Year of the Family, to show your Christian kindness to vulnerable women and their children in need, by supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Your gift to Parramatta Catholic Foundation will help pregnant and at-risk young mothers bring their babies into the world in a safe, nurturing and emotionally secure environment, setting them up for the very best start to their family life.

Please give with a generous heart via the Parramatta Catholic Foundation giving envelopes or online. Thank you.





Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Homeless young mothers desperately need our help this Christmas

For more than 30 years, CatholicCare's Houses to Homes has been assisting disadvantaged pregnant girls and young mothers aged 16 to 25, who are experiencing abuse, hardship and homelessness.

The need for shelter and support has increased with the pandemic, putting an even greater strain on staff and resources.

Your compassionate gift and prayers today will give marginalised young women like Lucy a safe, secure and loving environment to care for their children and the chance to feel hopeful about their future. Thank you for your kind-hearted generosity.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

BLAZE

BLAZE youth group is held every second Friday throughout the school term in the St John XXIII school hall. Youth runs from 7:15 to 9pm and accommodate a fun and engaging night of faith-based talks encouraging teens to walk with Christ in a nurturing community. If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at blaze@john23rd.org.au

Youth Coordinator Amanda Lee - 0413 545 318 Assistant Youth Coordinator Caitlin Green - 0425 579 594 Youth Leaders

Anna Todhunter Taylor Coutinho Johnathan Soosaipillai Natasha Surjanto Charlotte Todhunter

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



Come and Join!

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

Jonathan Montaos 0401 478 733

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

Office Contacts

1 (02) 8883 5981

1 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

1 0417 541 637 (for emergency only)

Assistant Priest:

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

⊠ Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au

Deacon:

Andrew Rooney

Andrew@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:

Daphney Fernandes

⊠ 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

celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.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

nnw.facebook.com/john23rdparish View our livestreams via YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohn%20 XXIIIGlenwood-StanhopeGardensParish

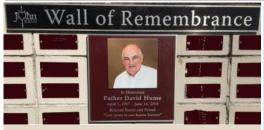
SUGGESTION BOX

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.

If you would like to advertise your business please contact the parish office.

St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.

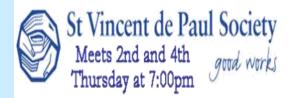


MEMORIAL WALL

The wall in front of the church is devoted to the memory of our deceased family and friends, especially if they are buried overseas. For any enquiries please email columbarium@john23rd.org.au



PRAISE AND WORSHIP 3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm SJ23rd Prayer Group





The plaques cost \$400.00.		cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com
ADVERTISE HERE	ADVERTISE HERE	ADVERTISE HERE
ADVERTISE HERE	ADVERTISE HERE	ADVERTISE HERE
ADVERTISE HERE	ADVERTISE HERE	ADVERTISE HERE