



## Second Sunday of Lent 13 March 2022



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.

Just as each year the first Sunday of Lent recalls the temptations of Christ, so do we contemplate the transfiguration on the second Sunday every year. Its subject of light is present today from the opening of the first reading (Genesis 5:5-12,17-18) in the command that warms the hearts of astronomers "Look up [Abram] to heaven and count the stars if you can". This image is employed three times in Genesis, and is referred to several other times. It may be a reminder to those in cities that in former, pre-industrial times that lacked the modern pollutions of mechanical exhaust and light (yes, to astronomers the lights of modern life are pollutants) that the stars of night are truly a spectacle to behold. Those blest to live with clear skies find themselves awe-struck by the beauty of the stars, if they but occasionally venture out to look up; adolescents and young adults often delight to do so, but a world weariness too often takes over and, sadly, too many cease to see.

In the accounts of the transfiguration the three chosen disciples (Peter, James and John) do see Christ's glory in the scene that in iconography is depicted as heaven breaking forth into the world. The synoptic accounts signify this by the cloud (a bright one according to Matthew) that overshadows them; it is the same as the cloud that accompanies and hides the Israelites during their flight from Egypt, at Sinai, and in the Tabernacle and the Temple. From the cloud, be it described as darkness that hides or as blinding brightness, the voice speaks. The scene is reminiscent of the baptism in the Synoptic gospels, each agreeing that the voice from heaven refers to Jesus as "my beloved Son", with whom the voice is "well pleased". Here at the transfiguration Luke has this element as "my Son, the chosen one", but all three add the command "Listen to him!".

The Homiletic Directory lays particular emphasis on the three synoptic gospels attaching this scene to Jesus first predicting his death. The connection to his death is highlighted in the interpretation found in today's Preface, and in the reports that put the same three disciples with Jesus in Gethsemane on the eve of his execution. But perhaps more note should be taken of the specific detail that immediately precedes in his statement to the disciples "...there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see – the Son of Man coming in his kingdom (Matthew 16:28); – that the kingdom of God has come with power (Mark 9:1); – the kingdom of God (Luke 9:27)". Then we are told how three of them did soon see this manifestation of the kingdom. Matthew's version may suggest to some an indication of the end of time, but that would be an inordinate length of time for any of the disciples to have to live out. Mark and Luke give no such sense. The disciples witnessing of the transfiguration is a privileged foresight of the glory that is more fully revealed in the resurrection – which no one witnesses; no one sees him rise, and in each encounter with the risen Christ there is some level of obscurity and they cannot see him fully as he is. The three disciples enjoy a privileged foresight of his glory, and thereafter none see it until they have tasted death and enter the homeland of heaven, when the creative power of God will transfigure these wretched bodies into copies of his glorious body. But that statement of Paul's should not be read as an anti-material rejection of the body, nor as a denigration of earthiness; his rejection is to the weakness of earthly life that make people subject to the Law and to being enslaved by earthly concerns. After all, in the transfiguration Christ reveals in his very flesh the presence of the kingdom of heaven; the body set free from slavery to sin is free to be as the child of God it was intended to be.

### Sunday Mass Times

Sat Vigil 6pm  
Sun 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

### 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 7:30pm 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

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

### First Reading

*Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18*

A reading from the book of Genesis

**God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.**

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14*

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' **R.**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **R.**



A GLIMPSE OF HIS GLORY

### Second Reading

*Philippians 3:17 - 4:1*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 17:5*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

*Luke 9:28-36*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



## Special Intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Sister Floriana, Vince Moulay, Glen Medellina

### Deceased:

### Anniversary:

Beryl Stewart, Gregory Reynolds,  
Antonia Cremona, Jimmy Virata

### Sick: Names published with permission.

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

### Thanksgiving:

Cremona family

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

## PRAYING in the SILENCE of the HEART

Holy Spirit

In you we are offered a way of  
discovering this amazing reality:  
God does not wish suffering or  
distress for people;

He never creates fear or anguish in  
us,  
God can only love us.

*Brother Roger of Taizé*

## MARCH Church Calendar

Mon	14	8:30am - Mass
Tues	15	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	16	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Thurs	17	<i>Saint Patrick (S)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Lenten Program via Zoom
Fri	18	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Stations of the Cross 7:30pm - Mass 7:30pm - Lenten Program - St Mark's College Hall
Sat	19	<i>Saint Joseph (S)</i> 9:00am - Mass 5:15pm - Confession 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	20	7:30am 9:00am 10:30 - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

## LENTEN PROGRAMS

**St John XXIII Catholic Church Faith Formation Team**

BE WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE

**GRACE GATHERINGS**

"KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO OUR GOD;  
AND WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH."  
REVELATIONS 5:10

A HEART-TO-HEART DISCOVERY OF THE WORD OF GOD

EVERY THURSDAY OF LENT      ZOOM ID: 478 311 4744  
7.30 PM - 8.30 PM      PASSCODE: 926923

**Stations of the Cross**

This season of Lent join us  
every Friday at 7:00pm  
to be followed by  
mass at 7:30pm

**COME AS YOU ARE!**

*Matthew 11:28*

OUR WEEKLY MEETINGS EXTEND THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
GATHER AS A COMMUNITY AND EXPERIENCE THE POWER AND  
GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BY ENGAGING IN A TIME OF PRAISE,  
WORSHIP AND PRAYER.

EACH WEEK ALSO INCLUDES A LIVE SCRIPTURE TEACHING.  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US ON FRIDAYS TO  
EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE, GOODNESS AND JOY!

EVERY FRIDAY 07:30 PM AT ST MARK'S COLLEGE HALL

BE UPDATED WITH US ON  
Facebook: /CRLAUS  
Instagram: @CRLAUS  
Twitter: @CRLAUS  
Website: WWW.RISENLORDCOMMUNITY.COM.AU

## COVID-19 NOTICE

For any and all COVID updates <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Check-in using the NSW QR Code and record keeping for attendees is no longer  
required for places of worship.

Masks will no longer be mandatory for places of worship. However, masks are still  
strongly encouraged where you cannot maintain a safe distance from others.

**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.parramattacatholic.org/covid19/#faq>

## SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.

## 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 [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com) or Melva Paguinto [emcipi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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

	1	8	15	22	29
Mar	Jayakody	Paguinto	Richards	Shalini	Jacob
Apr	5	12	19	26	
	Barnouti	Erasmo B	Ring	Shalini	
May	3	10	17	24	31
	Javelosa	Paguinto	Erasmo B	Shalini	Jacob
Jun	7	14	21	28	
	Shalini	Richards	Barnouti	Phillip	
Jul	5	12	19	26	
	Tanganan	Jacob	Deang	Jacob	
Aug	2	9	16	23	30
	Barnouti	Ring	Sebastian	available	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 the Parish Office on 8883 5981.

### ⇒ 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, Thursdays and Fridays. For more information call Asoki 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814.

Training and resources will be provided.

### ⇒ 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](mailto:naomi1.rey@gmail.com)



### ⇒ 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](mailto:maintenance@john23rd.org.au)

### ⇒ CALLING ALL CHOIRS

*Sing from the heart - Ephesians 5:19-20*

*Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**We miss you!!!!**

### Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group

Join us on Friday evening at 6.30pm in the Parish Office Staff room to look at the Gospel readings during Lent and pray **THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

Everyone is welcome. 🙏

**Any questions? Call Pauline 0407 417 039**



### 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.



## SPONSOR A PEW

Dear Parishioners,

We are getting close to our target amount for the pew replacements.

The total cost of the project is \$175,000 and we are GETTING CLOSE at 66% of our target. We request you to keep this going and sponsor a pew.

We would like to extend our gratitude to those who have already made contributions. It can be in memory of a deceased love one or your family or personal gift to the parish community.

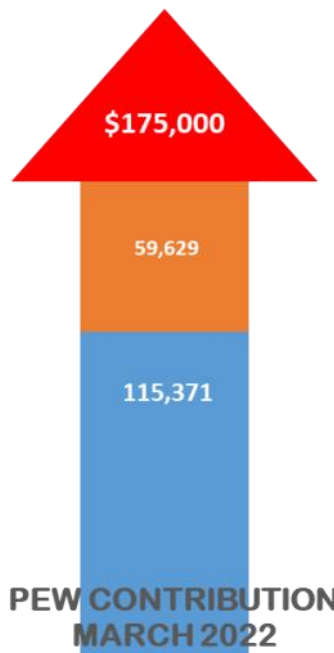
Each pew in the size of 4.6 metres will cost \$2500 and pews at the back will be almost double the size to match with the shape of the church. A small memorial or "donated by" plaque will be placed upon request. You can get family and/or friends to pool together or if you cannot afford to sponsor one full pew, any amount you donate will be a big addition to the cost of the pews.

Our comfort during worship is important so that our minds are centred to prayer and spiritual enrichment.

Be a community that cares for its spiritual home.

*Finance committee, Fr Zvonimir and Fr Jolly*

**'Forms are available at the church foyer for those who wish to donate towards the cost of the pews'.**



## CONTACTS

### 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](mailto:jolly@john23rd.org.au)

📞 0417 541 637 (*for emergency only*)

##### Assistant Priest:

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

✉ [Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au](mailto:Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au)

#### STAFF

##### Secretary:

Tanya Gatt

✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

##### Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)

##### Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

✉ [sacramental@john23rd.org.au](mailto:sacramental@john23rd.org.au)

##### Operations Manager:

Daphney Fernandes

✉ [operations@john23rd.org.au](mailto:operations@john23rd.org.au)

#### OTHER CONTACTS

##### Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ [maintenance@john23rd.org.au](mailto:maintenance@john23rd.org.au)

##### Columbarium queries:

Daphney Fernandes

✉ [columbarium@john23rd.org.au](mailto:columbarium@john23rd.org.au)

**RCIA**



## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

### Congratulations

This year our parish has been blessed with 2 new catechumens, **Jessica** and **Kevin**. They were presented to the Bishop last Sunday at the Rite of Election at Parramatta.

The RCIA team requests all parishioners to pray for them as they go through the final weeks of preparation to receiving the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Thank you

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish)

View our livestreams via YouTube

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

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StanhopeGardensParish

## Paying our debt together

**FIRST COLLECTION** goes to support the priests and deacons of the Diocese.

**SECOND COLLECTION** provides for the running costs of the church and ministry expenses; it also goes to pay off our church mortgage.

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 foyer 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 using the **TapnGo** machines by the entrances or online via **BPoint**.

### 'The Well' offering on-demand spiritual nourishment

Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement? Why not check out 'The Well'? The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with. In the lead up to Christmas, check out our featured range of videos and resources for children, families and young people to prepare us to welcome Our Lord at Christmas. Visit [www.thewell.org.au](http://www.thewell.org.au) today.

### Young people of the Diocese – we are with you

"I am with you always" Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new website in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The website [parracatholic.org/withyou](http://parracatholic.org/withyou) contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families.

### Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2022

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will begin in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on 8838 3456 or email [anne.stanton@parracatholic.org](mailto:anne.stanton@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.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.

### UPDATE: Social Justice COVID-19 Food and Toiletries Drive

Under the remaining influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and House of Welcome (HoW) cannot receive physical food and toiletry donations. However, many refugee families are still relying on their foodbanks or the provision of food vouchers. In this difficult time, please support JRS and How with a cash donation if you can. Find more information at [parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive](http://parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive) or call JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

### 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 2022 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](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) or call (02) 8838 3460.

### Vinnies Support Centres are still available to those in need

St Vincent de Paul Support Centres across Greater Sydney are still available and taking calls to arrange for food vouchers or other items to be provided to those in need. If you need assistance, call the Support Centres in Blacktown on (02) 8861 9777, Harris Park on (02) 8861 9757 and Penrith on (02) 8861 9770. To find out more about what support is available, visit <http://vinnies.org.au/covidsupportnsw>



### What we are doing at Vinnies

The impact of the flooding in northern NSW has been devastating and is a further blow to a community that was adversely impacted by floods in 2021, bushfires in 2020 and the COVID pandemic.

NSW SES teams have received over 8800 calls for assistance, so far, with 300 flood rescues overnight alone. Further evacuations are in place today and you can check the affected areas [here](#) and access a list of current evacuation centres [here](#).

A Flood Response group at Vinnies has been formed and will meet regularly over the coming days to coordinate our response – to both support our people in affected areas and provide the most appropriate care and assistance to communities impacted by the floods.

The Society has launched a [Vinnies NSW Flood Appeal](#) / (St Vincent de Paul Society NSW - Flood Appeal ([vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au))) and is getting ready to support the community with financial payments as part of the recovery efforts. Members will lead this response on the ground, offering support at recovery centres and Society locations that are accessible. More information on this work will be shared as we establish our supports in key centres and as the floodwaters recede.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

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

### **BLAZE**

Blaze is a youth group, Yrs 4 - 12, with the mission of creating a space for teens to learn, grow, serve and live out our Catholic faith. We facilitate the understanding and growth of our faith through various activities exploring the catholic perspective on a variety of themes such as social issues, teen challenges and faith-related topic.

Join us for a fun night filled with music, games, discussion, prayer and of course pizza. BLAZE youth session runs from 7:15 to 9pm and is held every second Friday throughout the school term in the St John XXIII school hall.

If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at [blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au)

Youth Coordinator	Asst Youth Coordinator	Youth Leaders	
Amanda Lee 0413 545 318	Caitlin Green 0425 579 594	Anna Todhunter Taylor Coutinho Natasha Surjanto	Charlotte Todhunter Johnathan Soosaipillai



For all youth ministry enquiries,

✉ [blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au)

or visit our FB page

[www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/](https://www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/)

[blazeyouthsj23/](https://www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/)



**BLAZE REGISTRATION FORM**

~ ~ **Come and Join!** ~ ~

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **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*)

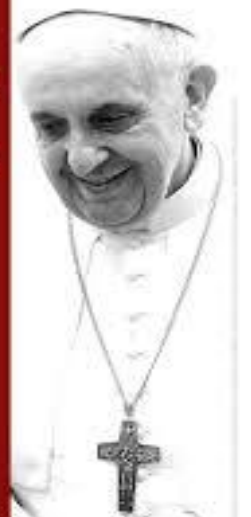
**YFC YOUTH LEADERS**

**YFC International**

Vince Erasmo - 0406 253 698

**YFC Australia**

Jonathan Montaos 0401 478 733



#### **OUR PARISH SCHOOLS**

**Catholic Early Learning Centre**

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

**Holy Cross Primary**

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au)

**John XXIII & St Mark's College**

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

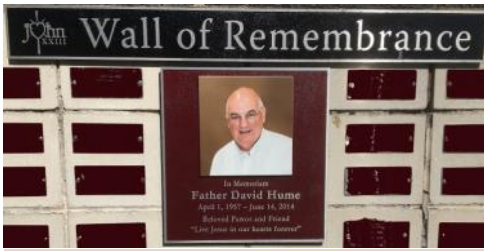
Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ [stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au)





### 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](mailto:columbarium@john23rd.org.au)

The plaques cost \$400.00



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



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
Meets 2nd and 4th  
Thursday at 7:00pm *good works*



Join and be  
part of the  
**Cake Angels**  
SJ23rd  
contact Madeline Huang  
[cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com)

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