



Third Sunday of Advent 11 December 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.

The Missal's entrance antiphon (Phil 4:4,5) that long ago gave today its epithet, Gaudete Sunday, and it sets the scene to receive the first reading that launches into the same message of joyful preparation already noted on the previous Sundays of Advent. It now comes even more forcefully (translated slightly differently here): let the wilderness be glad, rejoice and bloom; let it bloom plentifully, rejoice exceedingly and ring out – God is coming to save! Hearing this, and seeing our trees and summer plants in bloom, how can anyone think flowers out of place in churches where we celebrate the coming Saviour, both as the eternal judge to come and the babe already born? Being delightfully mindful of God's saving deeds in the past, as Isaiah's people were of the great exodus from Egypt and we are of the newborn Christ-child and his resurrection, this reading calls all to a joyful anticipation of what is to be, the foretaste now of the not yet. This therefore does not deny the current reality of difficulties encountered and the problems we face, but the hope it conveys encourages the burdened as if lightening the load. There is a wise psychology at work in this mode, for people find it easier to change when they see and want what is to be gained than when they are ground down by reminders of what will go wrong if they don't; when faced with a need to make a major change in life people find working towards a pleasing goal is psychologically easier and more productive than working to avoid punishment.

The responsorial Psalm (Ps145) echoes some of the first reading as its antiphon introduces the cry that soon becomes predominant in Advent: Come Lord! Why should anyone beg what they dread to come? No, it is the earnest desire for the salvation the Lord brings that stirs the call to him to come. The psalm also shares the image of the blind gaining sight that will be heard again in the gospel (Matt 11:2-11), and it adds more of these positives: the hungry are fed, prisoners are freed, the bowed down are lifted up. John the Baptist is with us again this Sunday, but now he is in prison, and he asks confirmation that Jesus is the one who is to come. The message sent back to him is, like Isaiah's to the exiles, the consolation of good news, but rather than these good things being still to come they are now being made present. However, we still find ourselves in between the now and not yet; salvation has come in Christ, and yet it is still being brought to fulfilment, and anything coming to fulfilment still has obstacles to surpass. Our second reading, from the letter of James (5:7-10), urges patience; as for the farmer, the crop has been planted but the harvest is still to come, and in the meantime it still needs the grace of rain. We might add that it also needs vigilant oversight to be able deal with weeds and pests.

However, our summer's heat can also be draining, even frightening when accompanied by the real danger of fire in some parts of the country and of catastrophic storms in others. The message in the Missal's Communion antiphon seeks to encourage the faint of heart, those tiring with the struggle. But, in as much as our own profligacy has contributed to the current dangers, we must also remember last Sunday's message does not say "Continue as you are; God will sort it out" but rather "Prepare the way", a call to action. Instead of acting simply from fear, or being overwhelmed by it, it would be better for us to acknowledge the presence of God already here manifest in the wonderful work that is creation; delighting in and loving God's gift as God does surely is a stronger impetus to change, for love of God.

Mass Times

Mon 8:30am
 Tues-Fri 9:15am
 Sat 9:00am, 6pm Vigil
 Sun 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

Holy Cross Primary School Mass
 Tuesdays 9:15am during school days

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 7.30pm

Reconciliation

After the weekday masses
 Sat: after the 9am mass until 10.30am
 5:15 - 5:45pm before the Vigil
 Mass *Or upon request*

Sacraments

Sun 12pm Baptism *by appointment*

Devotions & Prayers

Mon 7.30pm Christian Meditation
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

Praise & Worship

Fri 7.30pm Risen Lord Comm
 3rd Sat 7.30pm SJ23rd Prayer Grp



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."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Catholic Parish of St John XXIII and the Diocese of Parramatta sits, the land of the Darug and Gundungurra people. We would like to pay our respects to the Aboriginal Elders past, present and future for they hold the traditions, memories and wisdom of Mother Earth on which we place our feet upon today.

For further updates with regards to our parish activities, check the following website <http://john23rd.com/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/>

Entrance Antiphon

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

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

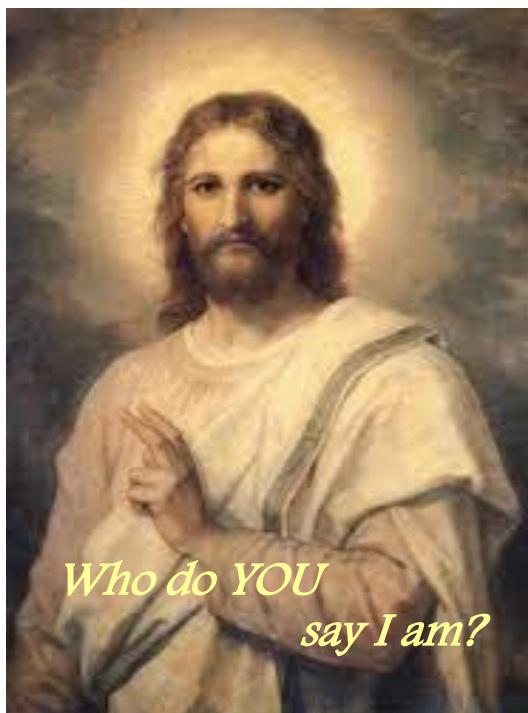
Ps 145:6-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**



Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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:

Marlon Omar Ravelo, Colin Fisher

Anniversary:

Elpedo Beltran

Sick: Names published with permission.

Valeria Laureta, Karam Matte, Father Joseph, Peter Dawson, Tony Muscat, Emma Matoza, Rosamma John Pellissery, Ben & Etta Benesa, Melissa Randall, Isagani Ocampo, Bev Lewis, Zenira D'Souza, Sophie De Leon, Wally Atie, Leopoldo Cuisia, Dragica Julich, Kelly Ryan, Colleen McCunnie, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Hilary Regan, Adrian Gould, Charlie Busuttil, Jenat Perera, Gloria Bueno Johnathan Gemin, Maria Romeo, Cristina Arceo, Iyrika D'Cruz, Maryanne Jaramillo, Elizabeth Candame, Raymond Lanzona, Geoffrey Robinson, Barbara Thompson, Rhonda & Damian, Florencia Cunanan, Anshu Mala Nand, Christina Properzi, Elizabeth Newnes, Deidre Thomson, Florentina Elisura, Greg Marcellana, Mavie Dela Cruz, Perla Magculang, Virginia Santos, Adolfo Mayo

Thanksgiving:

Esther & Frank Coleiro

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, enable us to turn toward you at every moment.

We so often forget that you are dwelling in us, that you are praying in us, that you are loving in us. Your presence in us is trust and constant forgiveness.

Brother Roger of Taizé

COELIACS

Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion with a gluten low host. Please inform the acolyte before Mass.

Dec	Church Calendar
Mon 12	8:30am - Mass
Tues 13	<i>Saint Lucy (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Wed 14	<i>Saint John of the Cross (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Thurs 15	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Fri 16	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Sat 17	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun 18	7:30am 9:00am 10:30 - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

PARISH NEWS

Nativity Play: The Greatest Story Ever Told

The Annual Nativity Play is back!

We invite children from ages 4-12 to participate in this year's Nativity Play. While we need older children to play the core characters like Mary and Joseph, The Three Wise Men, etc, we would also want little children to be the host of angels and a group of shepherd boys and girls to herd their sheep to the birthplace of Jesus.

Let our children bring the story come to life!

Casting and rehearsal will be on Saturday, 10 Dec 2022 at 3PM at the church. A second rehearsal will be on Saturday 17th Dec at 3PM. Please text Helen Festejo on 0401671665 or email: helen.festejo@gmail.com.

Looking forward to having a great time with the kids.



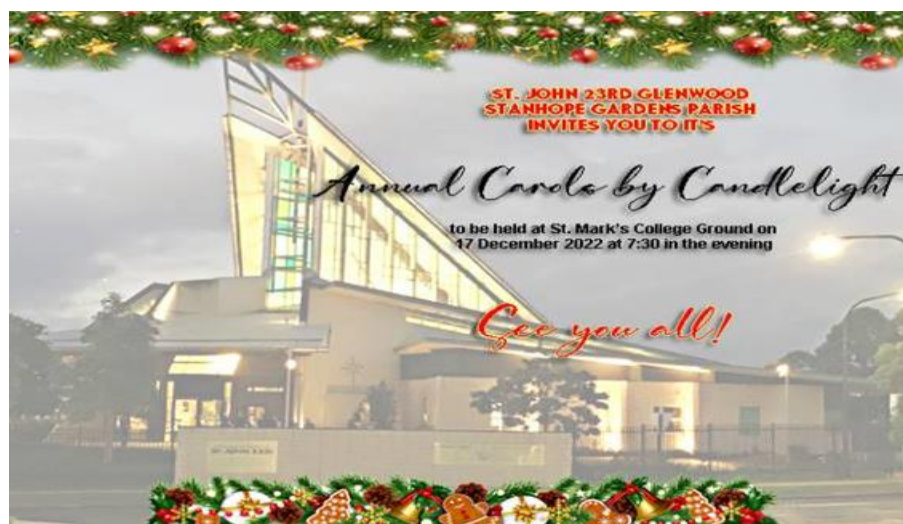
SJ23RD YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS

"Xmas Lunch at the Fiddler"

Wednesday, 14th Dec, meet up 11.30am for a 12noon start.

ALL SENIORS ARE WELCOME

If interested to be part of this energetic and fun loving group please contact Frank on mob 0459 504625



MASS OF THE ROOSTER



Join us for a nine day novena mass celebration in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

These masses will commence on the 16th December, 6:00am except for the Sunday 18th December, which will be part of the 7:30am mass. This will finish in the morning of the 24th of December. We hope you can join us and please bring a plate to share for a breakfast social.

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).



7:30pm every First Tuesday - Novena mass

"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

For the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home, please contact Bart Sarlabus bart.sarlabus@gmail.com or Melva Paguinto emcipi85@yahoo.com.au. Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.

"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"

Rosary Statue Family Roster

	6	13	20	27	
Dec	Jacob	Shalini	Paguinto	Paguinto	
Jan	3	10	17	24	31
	Ring	Manalo	Manalo	Sebastian	Tangunan
Feb	7	14	21	28	
	Sebastian	D'Souza	Ring	Jacob	
Mar	7	14	21	28	
	Paguinto	Ring	Shalini	Jacob	
Apr	4	11	18	25	
	Deang	Jacob	Erasmio B	Sebastian	

You may want to invite either Fr Jolly or Fr Zvonimir to join you and your family in your rosary prayers at home. Please organize with the parish office.

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.



WE NEED YOU

⇒ 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.

⇒ GARDENERS AND CLEANERS

Now that the church is open for celebrations, its floors need to be swept of dust, cobwebs brushed off, candle stands cleaned and garden kept green. We would like to request all our volunteer cleaners and gardeners to come back and continue their ministry.

For more information contact maintenance@john23rd.org.au or the parish office.

Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group

Please come and join the Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group at 6.30pm in the Parish Office Kitchen. For further enquiries please call Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039

⇒ 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

⇒ 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.

Christmas Mass Times

Please join us for Christmas services as we enter into the joy of the Christmas season.

24th December, Saturday – Christmas Eve

6:00am - Dawn Mass (Mass of the Rooster)

9:00am

6:00pm – Family Mass including the Nativity pageant presented by the children of our parish.

9:00pm

25th December, Sunday – Christmas Day

12:00am – Midnight Mass

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am

We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord with you!



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.



QR code for

We encourage everyone to contribute financially using the TapnGo machines by the entrances or online via BPoint.

What is La Misa Del Gallo?

February 28, 2022

In many English speaking countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December.

Normally on the 24th families stay at home, with the children anxious for the arrival of father Christmas. Then, on the 25th Christmas is celebrated with a Christmas lunch of potatoes, vegetables and with varying meat based upon the region. However, Spain is different. In Spain, Christmas is normally celebrated on the night of the 24th in what is commonly known as “la misa del gallo.”

La misa del gallo (Rooster Mass) is celebrated in Spain, and other Spanish influenced countries, as a religious celebration of the birth of Jesus, from the moment that the bell chimes in the start of the 25th of December.

La misa del gallo which translates to English literally as “Rooster mass” is the name of the mass that normally takes place as the clock strikes midnight on Christmas eve.

This signals the start of the celebrations to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. As a primarily Catholic country, this mass is held in almost every church and forms an integral part of Spanish culture, and Spanish Christmas traditions.

Why is it called La misa del gallo?

There are several theories as to why the mass is referred to as la misa del gallo.

One stipulates that it is called such as the rooster was one of the animals present when the baby Jesus was born and was in fact, the first living being to see him. It also says that the rooster itself announced his birth by crowing.

Another theory is that the Pope III wanted to have a special mass to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ.

When deciding at what time the mass should be held, he stated “ad galli cantus”, which when translated from Latin to English means when the rooster crows.

Whilst nowadays we associate a rooster crowing with the break of dawn and when the sun rises, the Romans did not. The Romans instead said that the rooster crowed at the turn of a new day, which meant literally when the clock struck midnight. Thus, it became commonplace that the new mass was held as the clock struck midnight and marked the new day.

A simpler theory, and also the one that most scholars agree upon, puts forth that it is called la misa del gallo because fried chicken was the most common food served on the special night to celebrate.

And so, because of this, the most popular dish for the celebrations gave its name to the new mass.

What happens in La misa del gallo?

Nowadays, la misa del gallo is not necessarily celebrated at midnight. This can be due to a variety of reasons such as lack of public transport or the location being remote.

The Vatican, due to health reasons, have recently changed the hour at which they celebrate the Christmas mass so that they end up celebrating the misa del gallo at 10pm instead of at midnight.

But the time that the mass is held is based solely on the church holding it and their situation.

Why does Spain celebrate La misa del gallo?

La misa del gallo is still celebrated in many regions of Spain to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, and is a constant in their Christmas traditions, with other traditions being added to the Christmas norms based on each province.

Catalonia, for example, celebrates la misa del gallo and they also hold their own tradition of tio de nadal, which is a log that is “pooping”, which is fattened up during the run up to Christmas so that it can be added to the fire on Christmas day.

In Galicia, the family gather on the 24th to sing panxoliñas (Christmas carols) and await the arrival of the Apalpador or Pandigueiro who comes down from the mountains to bring good boys and girls chestnuts.

So whilst the way in which Spaniards celebrate Christmas in various different ways based on the region, the one constant is la misa del gallo.

Are there other countries that celebrate La misa del gallo?

As with many traditions that originated from Spain, they are also reflected in mainly Latin American countries and other Spanish influenced countries such as in the Philippines.

In the Philippines, La misa del gallo is known as Simbang Gabi, which translates into English as night mass.

It is celebrated in a part of a nine day celebration leading up to Christmas, and takes place as the last of the 9 night masses.

These masses normally take place anywhere between 3 and 5 in the morning. The reason behind this goes back to when the Philippines was still a Spanish colony; and due to the heat would lose time to tend to their farms.

The colonizers saw that the natives would still come to mass at the end of the day regardless of how tired they were.

Due to this, the time of the mass was changed so that it was held in the early morning, to avoid the excessive heat of the day and to not take away the time that the people used to farm their lands.

Also in Latin America the Spanish tradition of celebrating Christmas on the night of the 24th still persists. In comparison with English speaking countries, the Spanish influence still exists and families and friends can be seen gathering to celebrate the night with dinner and fun and games.

In conclusion, whilst people that come from English speaking countries are taking it easy at home, waiting for Father Christmas to arrive.

People in Spain normally are going to la misa del gallo and then having a feast afterwards to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and as they say in Spain, “*esta noche no es para dormir, esta noche es para celebrar.*” (Tonight isn’t for sleeping, tonight is for celebrating.)

<https://ourspanishlife.com/what-is-la-misa-del-gallo/>



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

For more events please go to parracatholic.org/events or <https://catholicoutlook.org/>

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2022

Getting married in 2022? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.



'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. Check out our featured range of videos and resources for children, families and young people. Visit www.thewell.org.au today.

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 info or to book your course visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or call (02) 8838 3460.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

Ministries for Formation include Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

Comprehensive training for ministers who wish to serve at the altar during Mass for their parish.

All applications need to be endorsed by your parish Priest prior to attending the first Introductory session.

<https://officeforworship.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Liturgical-Ministry-Formation-Enrollment-Form-2023.pdf>

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

📞 0417 541 637 (for emergency only)

Assistant Priest:

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

✉ Zvonimir@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

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

Reminder

Please make sure when
you come to Mass, let us
consider our neighbours.

Do not block the
neighbours' driveway.



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>

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

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

or visit our FB page

www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/



BLAZE REGISTRATION FORM



WYD Appeal - Blaze Youth

BLAZE Youth will continue to raise funds every second weekend by hosting various events to support the participating youth of our wonderful church. BLAZE leaders hope to raise \$20,000 and we are still way off our mark.. If you would be interested to make a donation towards our goal this can be done through the Parish's BPoint account <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIPGSG> and caption your donation as "YOUTH - WYD DONATION".

We thank you in advance for your generous support and look forward to the year ahead as we prepare for what will be a life changing and spiritually enriching pilgrimage. If you have any queries, our leaders will be at morning masses weekly and you can contact us via email blaze@john23rd.org.au



COME AND JOIN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO OUR ENDEAVOURS

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 253698

YFC Australia

Jonathan Montaos - 0401 478733

DIOCESE YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Ministry Leadership Pathway

A new pathway for leadership in youth ministry is here! Duc In Altum is an initiative of Catholic Youth Parramatta designed to provide practical youth ministry training, build community between youth leaders across the Diocese, and offer intentional time for prayer and reflection. For more information and details to sign up visit parracatholic.org/ducinaltum/ or email qwayne.guevara@parracatholic.org



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/ with you contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families.

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au

St John XXIII Catholic College

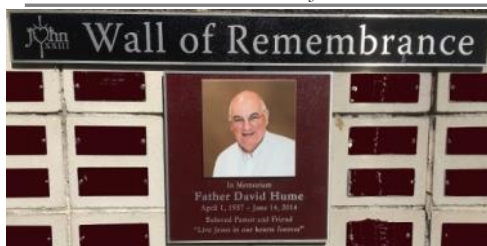
160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 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

The plaques cost \$400.00



QUAKERS HILL FAMILY PRACTICE

Are you looking for a family doctor?

- Long established accredited General Practice in Quakers Hill
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Books are now open for new patients

Tel – 02 9626 6300
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Risen Lord Community Praise & Worship Night



7.30pm
FRIDAYS,
St John23rd
College Hall

Come join us for an evening of deep intimacy with the Lord. Learn about the abundant and victorious life that Jesus died and purchased for us to have.

AVENUE



JULIA STELLA

Licensed Real Estate Agent

M 0431 277 110

E julia.stella@theavenue.com.au

Scan for a property market update



COLUMBARIUM

Columbarium Niches reservations are getting filled from neighbouring parishioners. For our parishioners who are planning to buy a Niche, do so without delay, because we always want to prioritise members of our parish who wish to buy the Niches.

Cost for a niche is \$3000.

For further information please contact the Parish Office.



Trust the sale of your home with your local Parishioner and award-winning licensed real estate agent,
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Members

Bernadette Virwani
Julienne Crasto
Bing Catabas

Chris Drummond
Margaret Harrison
Nanette Gamboa
Gary Lee



Join and be
part of the
Cake Angels
contact Madeline Huang
cakeangels.sjohn23@gmail.com



Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm



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

ADVERTISE HERE

PARISH SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL



10:00 AM SATURDAYS
ST JOHN XXIII COLLEGE GROUNDS

Joseph - 0404 793800

Jason - 0427 933199

Preema - 0406 786768

GAME ON!!



TABLE TENNIS SOCIALS

10:00 AM SATURDAYS
ST JOHN XXIII COLLEGE GROUNDS

**Parish Sports
Coordinator**
Neville - 0466 262850

Come and join our sports socials every Saturday, 10:00am at St John 23rd College's outdoor courts. If interested contact the coordinators listed above in order to be included in our WhatsApp Sports chat group.