

Fourth Sunday of Advent 18 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 accounts of the birth of Jesus by Matthew and Luke reflect different perspectives: in Matthew we see things from Joseph's point of view, while in Luke we see from Mary's. Matthew tells us of Joseph's response to the information that his betrothed, Mary, "was found to be with child, through the Holy Spirit", and later we read of his actions to take care of her and the child in the face of peril; Mary is neither spoken to nor speaks in the entire work. In Luke it is Mary who is spoken to and speaks, while Joseph is silent, though he is also active. Matthew and Luke agree that Joseph was a descendant of David, and neither report any further role of Joseph past the childhood narratives. Both approaches are catered for in today's Collect, for the observation that "the Incarnation... was made known by the message of an Angel" fits equally with both gospels. So too does the Prayer over the Offerings, referring to Mary's womb being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit; this is the first Prayer over the Offerings in Advent to have a specific reference to the season and coming feast. This is true also of the Prayer after Communion. Thus at all levels this Sunday marks a decided turn in the emphasis of Advent away from Christ's future return towards celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation in history. In fact this turn manifests first on 17 December (unless it is the 3rd Sunday of Advent), and is seen on all the weekdays of this time, with the exception that in these days the "O" antiphons for the Magnificatat Vespers, deployed also in variant forms for the Gospel Acclamations at Mass, continue the theme of looking forward to Christ's second coming, even urgently begging for that day and Christ to come. This incessant request always highlights the joyful anticipation of his coming with salvation, and thus is not an end to be feared. We read from Luke's gospel on this Sunday in Years B & C, so Year A is the only one in which we reflect on Joseph's role; of importance is that Joseph is the descendant of David, and through him Jesus is also David's heir. This reading is accompanied by the famous prophesy in Isaiah for the coming birth of the one who will be called Emmanuel-literally, God-with-us. The responsorial Psalm, Ps 24(23) is of particular importance; it follows the same reading on 20 December (when not a Sunday) and is in the entrance antiphon on 22 December (when not a Sunday)-and so it appears at least once every year in the days before Christmas. Historically it is associated with the Ark of the Covenant being taken into its new abode in the first Temple; though it is Solomon who takes the Ark in, it is David's song that opens the way, and thus it came to have an important place in Jewish thought and liturgy: it is morning prayer's Psalm of the Day on Sundays, and it is sung daily in Ashkenazi synagogues as the Torah scroll is taken back to the "ark", the scroll's special storage place. In our liturgies it has a similar role as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's "entrance" into the world in the Incarnation, and it is used on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, and for his entry into Jerusalem on Passion Sunday. The Ark was celebrated not for its own sake, but for what it contained and signified; it contained the summary of the Law (the 10 Commandments carved on the stone tablets) and the Mercy Seat, the golden lid with its two carved cherubim that together delineated the empty space designating the invisible presence of God who cannot be be held by creatures. Christ is giver of the new commandment, establishing the New Covenant, also embodies God's mercy. In consequence, though it sounds a little odd to us at first, for bearing him Mary has been called the Ark of the New Covenant. Merging all the imagery, the readings present Joseph in the place of David, leading the new Ark to its new abode, leading Mary who bears the embodied Law and source of mercy.

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.

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R**.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R**.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

Second Reading

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

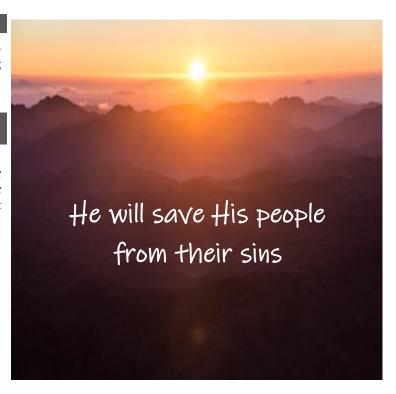
Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Marlon Omar Ravelo, Colin Fisher

Anniversary:

Eroll Sancouci Basil Cherry

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

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

Jesus our hope, fragile and empty handed though we may be, we long to understand that you always shed light on the way that leads to God.

Brother Roger of Taize

COELIACS

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

Dec		Church Calendar
Mon	19	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 8:30am - Mass
Tues	20	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Wed	21	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	22	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Fri	23	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Sat	24	Nativity of the Lord Vigil (S) 6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 900am - Mass 6:00pm - Family Mass
Sun	25	Nativity of the Lord Day (S) 9:00am 10:30 6:00pm - Mass

PARISH NEWS

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 commenced on the 16th December, 6:00am. 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.

SJ23RD YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS

"Xmas Lunch at the Fiddler"

It was a lovely occasion meeting and having a fun time with fellow seniors of our parish and beyond. Lunch was great at the Fiddler.



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

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

Rosary Statue Family Roster						
Dec	6	13	20	27		
	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	Erasmo 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.

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.

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.



⇒ 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. <u>Training and resources will be provided</u>.

⇒ 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



This will be the last bulletin for the year. We will be back in the middle of January







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 a n d 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

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

https://officeforworship.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2022/09/Liturgical-Ministry-Formation-Enrollment-Form-2023.pdf



CONTACTS

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

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

 \boxtimes 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.



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.

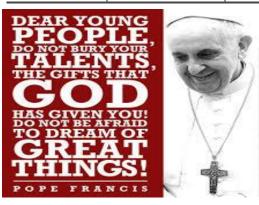
If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at <u>blaze@john23rd.org.au</u>

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	



BLAZE REGISTRATION FORM

www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO OUR ENDEAVOURS

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 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

1 (02) 9852 0585

⊠ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood Principal: Louise O'Donnell

2 (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

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

The plaques cost \$400.00



Are you looking for a family doctor?

- Long established accredited General Practice in Quakers Hill
- Multi Doctor practice with Christian values at the core
- In–house Allied health and Dental clinic

Books are now open for new patients
Tel – 02 9626 6300

www.qhfp.com.au



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.

ADVERTISE HERE



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,

John Irudayaraj.

A member of your church who believes in the power of giving back, mention this advert and if John sells your home he will make a donation directly to the Church.

0433 969 731 johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au McGrath Northwest

McGrath



Members
Bernadette Virwani
Julienne Crasto
Bing Catabas

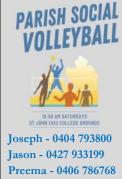
Chris Drummond Margaret Harrison Nanette Gamboa Gary Lee







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





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.