



Second Sunday of Advent 4 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.

In each year in our three-year lectionary cycle John the Baptist appears on this Sunday in the gospel reading as the voice crying "Prepare a way for the Lord". This year we read more of John's message than in the other years, and it sounds severe, even frightening, as he talks of a coming retribution. Some people may read today's passage (Matt 3:1-12) as supporting that penitential, quasi-Lenten view of Advent to which I objected last Sunday. Those thoroughly familiar with the book of Isaiah, as first century Christians were, should recognize that the quote "A voice cries..." (Isaiah 40:3) that is used in all four gospels belongs to a passage joyfully proclaiming to the Babylonian exiles the imminence of God's saving intervention – it does not announce a damning retribution. The lectionary itself reminds us of this context as each year the first reading chosen to accompany this account of John the Baptist is a passage of hopeful expectation, from Isaiah in years A and B, and from Baruch in year C. The Lectionary devisers chose not to use the close parallel in Malachi (3:1) that heads a negative message. That passage in Malachi is read on December 23, but with the most of the attached negative portion omitted as the pericope jumps to the promise of Elijah's return for a ministry of reconciliation.

Note also in today's gospel that until John turns on the Pharisees and Sadducees, calling them a brood of vipers, there is no hint of negativity, no suggestion that the people already seeking baptism from him are anything other than genuinely responding to his call to repentance, and there is no indication that he did not receive them gracefully.

Why indeed would anyone call others to repent unless harbouring a sincere goodwill or affection toward them and a desire that they should willingly change? Prophets who radiate hostility to their audience do not attract or keep followers, and, as it is said, you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. And yet both honey and vinegar have their place if wisely applied, one soothing or luring, the other biting and cleansing. There is in John an unpretentious concern for God's people, but severe criticism for those the evangelists later identify in their gospels as pretentiously self-righteous; John's ministry is a consolation to the contrite and a castigation to the conceited. The role of the prophet may be both to give comfort to the humble and oppressed, and to speak truth unflinchingly to power.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8th December is the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary.

It is a feast of solemnity and we have two
Masses which will be at 9.15am and 7.30pm.
We encourage everyone to participate in the
Eucharist on that day.

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

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R.**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R.**



Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Frank Marotta, Melissa Randal

Deceased:

Anniversary:

Aubrey Johnson & Athayde Reynolds

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

Anna Sebastian

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

God of every human being,
when we simply desire to welcome
your love, a flame rises up little by little
deep in our souls.
Very fragile though it be, it always
keeps burning.

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	5	8:30am - Mass
Tues	6	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	7	<i>Saint Ambrose (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	8	<i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Fri	9	9:15am - Mass
Sat	10	9.00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	11	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.



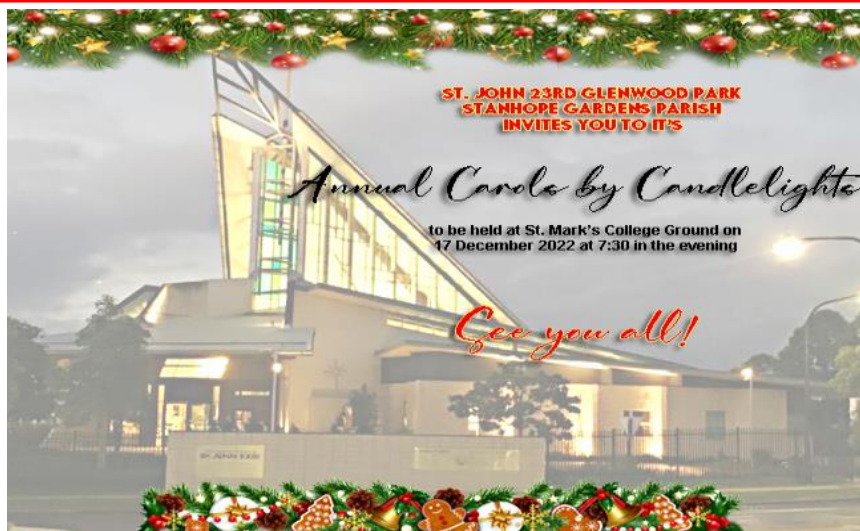
SJ23RD YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS

"Xmas Lunch at the Fiddler"

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

ALL SENIORS ARE WELCOME

To join the group for lunch please contact Frank on 0459504625, as booking is essential. Closing date to register your name is on the 5th December.



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.



We would like to thank all our Angels who contributed and assisted in our Cake Angels stall last Sunday, 20th Nov but most of all to our parishioners who supported our Cake Angels' stall. We nearly ran out of goodies to sell. We raised approx. \$1.3k which will be a big contribution to our church coffers.

Your continued support is very much appreciated.

If you would like to join this group of bakers please contact Madeleine Huang via email at cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com

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).

7pm every Tuesday - Novena prayers except

7:30pm every First Tuesday - Novena mass

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.

"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	
May	2	9	16	23	30
	Vernon	Paguinto	Erasmo B	Sebastian	Tina B

"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.



⇒ 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.

THE HISTORY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

REV. WILLIAM SAUNDERS

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn “the wheel of the earth” back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and

the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. A traditional prayer service using the Advent wreath proceeds as follows: On the First Sunday of Advent, the father of the family blesses the wreath, praying: *O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.* He then continues for each of the days of the first week of Advent, *O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.* The youngest child then lights one purple candle.

During the second week of Advent, the father prays: *O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.* The oldest child then lights the purple candle from the first week plus one more purple candle.

During the third week of Advent, the father prays: *O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.* The mother then lights the two previously lit purple candles plus the rose candle.

Finally, the father prays during the fourth week of Advent, *O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.* The father then lights all of the candles of the wreath.

Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-history-of-the-advent-wreath.html>

30 Years of Service as an SRE!

Congratulations to Colleen McCunnie and Josephine Falzon for the inspiring 30 years of dedicated service to Special Religious Education Program. Colleen and Josephine have been teaching SRE to Catholic children in our State schools.

The Parish of St John XXIII thanks you with much gratitude for your service. God Bless you both.





OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

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.




'On Our Knees' booklets December issue.

Each booklet is a powerful aid to personal prayer inclusive of personal reflections based on the daily liturgical readings.

For anyone desiring to delve deeper into the living Word of God and discover how our Lord speaks to us through it, this is the prayer tool for you.

The booklets are free of charge and now available at the church foyer.

We pray that this resource blesses you and leads you deeper in your journey with Christ.

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

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



Thank you to Youth for Christ (International) for your help cleaning the church and surrounding gardens.

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.celcstanhope.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

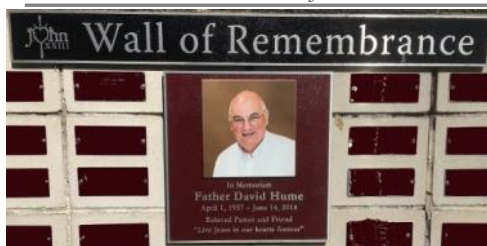
Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au

*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



QUAKERS HILL FAMILY PRACTICE

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Books are now open for new patients

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ADVERTISE HERE

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



ADVERTISE HERE

PARISH SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL



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.