

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 American spiritual writer, Patty Houser, wrote: 'I never listen to what a person says. I look at what a person does because what they do tells me who they really are' (Cf. https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/14247693.Patty_Houser). We all know this as the maxim, 'Actions speak louder than words'. This maxim was first recorded in 1628 from John Pym, an English parliamentarian, whose attempted arrest in 1642 by Charles I sparked the English Civil War. We have all heard it so often that we believe it. It is certainly true that our actions reveal us to others, but I would not go as far as Patty Houser and say that I never listen to what a person says. As much as our actions are important, I think that our words are pretty important as well.

The author of the gospel in Matthew's name knew this. Whoever wrote it—scholarship generally thinks that it was written about AD 80 in Antioch, near the modern Turkish city of Antakya, near the Syrian border—was part of a community of Christian Jews who had formed around Matthew, one of the Twelve. Matthew's Gospel emphasises how Jesus fulfils the Hebrew Scriptures, and today's passage about Isaiah's prophecy about the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali is no exception. The centre of the gospel has five parts, and each part is divided into two: what Jesus does (the narrative) and what Jesus says (the discourse). Today we are hearing from the narrative of the first part. In the following five weeks we shall read from the discourse of the first part. Interestingly, whoever put our scriptural readings together seems to be telling us that words are more important than actions, since we get five weeks of words but only this one week of action. But we can leave that aside.

In our reading today we get only a small extract from the first narrative that includes the call of the first disciples (a good reason not to read the shorter form of the gospel, which even cuts out the call). We begin with a one-line summary of the central message of Jesus: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. We heard these same words on the Second Sunday in Advent on the lips of John the Baptist. We shall hear them again throughout the season of Lent. 'Repent.' It is worth saying again that the Greek imperative verb *metanoete* means to turn around and head in a completely new direction. Jesus came to stop us getting lost and to point us in the right direction; he came to help us find God again. Today we meet four small-businessmen, Simon and Andrew, James and John. They have a little food-supply industry. We hear time and again these days that small business is the backbone of the economy. These four guys are making their contribution to the economic development of their community. This is what many of us also do.

Now, as important as that is for their own success and prosperity, Jesus calls them to follow him, calls them to leave that all behind. Why would he do that? And why would they listen to him? As St Augustine says in one of his homilies (Sermo 96), 'What the Lord has commanded seems hard and harsh, that any who wish to follow him should deny themselves'. Why does anyone take up a sea change? It is all about finding meaning and purpose in life. It is not that there is anything wrong with working, but Jesus calls us to see that there is more to life than this. Augustine says, 'learn to love yourself by not loving yourself'. In other words, put things into perspective. This is what it means to turn around and head off in the right direction.

Today we can thank God that, like Simon and Andrew, James and John, each one of us is called by Jesus to repent, to turn around, to go in the right direction. We can be thankful that each one of us is called to follow him, to fish not for food but for life. The Eucharist of the broken body and the blood poured out is the direction we are to follow; it is the life we are to seek.

Geoffrey D Dunn

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."

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
Tues 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
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

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

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

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

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. **R.**

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

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

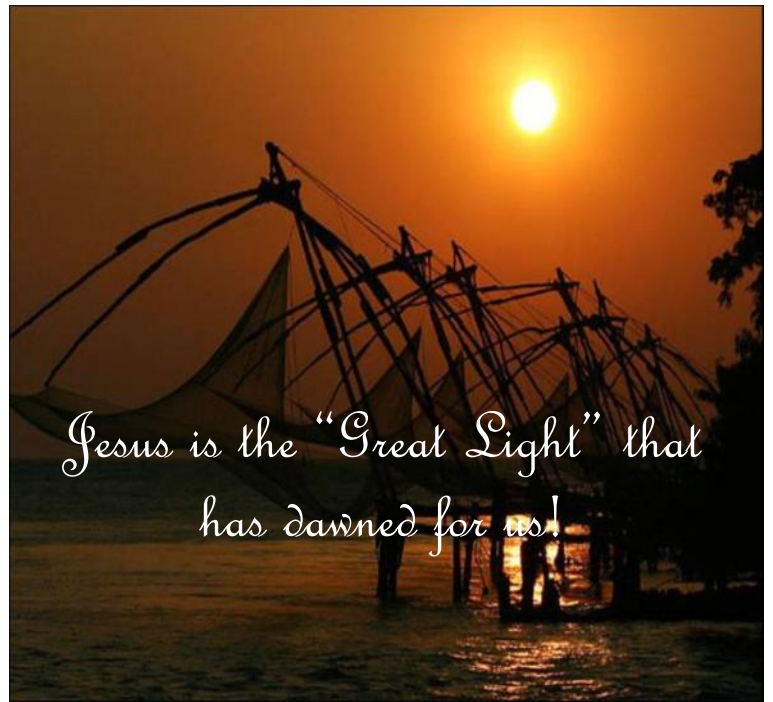
I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-17

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Censina Baldacchino, Cardinal George Pell,
Iyrika D' Cruz, Colleen McCunnie,

Anniversary:

Gladys Paltoo, Robert Doyle

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,
Adrian Gould, Cristina Arceo, Dragica Julich,
Kelly Ryan, Charlie Busuttil, Greg Marcellana,
Adolfo Mayo, Deidre Thomson, Jenat Perera,
Gloria Bueno, Maria Romeo, Virginia Santos,
Ben & Etta Benesa, Hilary Regan, Zoey Illic,
Rosamma John Pellissery, Leopoldo Cuisia,
Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Raymond Lanzona,
Elizabeth Candame, Maryanne Jaramillo,
Rhonda & Damian, Barbara Thompson,
Florence Cunanan, Geoffrey Robinson,
Anshu Mala Nand, Christina Properzi,
Elizabeth Newnes, Florentina Elisura,
Johnathan Gemin, Perla Magculang,
Mavie Dela Cruz

Thanksgiving:

Father Jolly Chacko, Wira Peiris

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

Praying together

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer

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

Join us for novena prayers every Tuesday at 7:00pm after which pick up our Lady's statue.

Roster is below.

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



Rosary Statue Family Roster

Jan	3	10	17	24	31
	<i>Ring</i>	<i>Manalo</i>	<i>Manalo</i>	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	Erasmus B	Sebastian	
May	2	9	16	23	30
	Vernon	Paguinto	Erasmus	Sebastian	Tina B

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

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.

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.

January Church Calendar

Mon	23	8:30am - Mass
Tues	24	<i>Saint Francis de Sales (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	25	<i>Conversion of Saint Paul (F)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	26	<i>Australia Day</i> 9:15am - Mass
Fri	27	9:15am - Mass
Sat	28	<i>Saint Thomas Aquinas (M)</i> 9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	29	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am - Mass 6:00 pm - Mass

Paying our debt together

Thank you to all our parishioners who have always so generously supported our Parish. We will always be grateful for your generosity

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 from the website.

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

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

or
scan the QR code



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.

⇒ **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.

⇒ **GARDENERS AND CLEANERS**

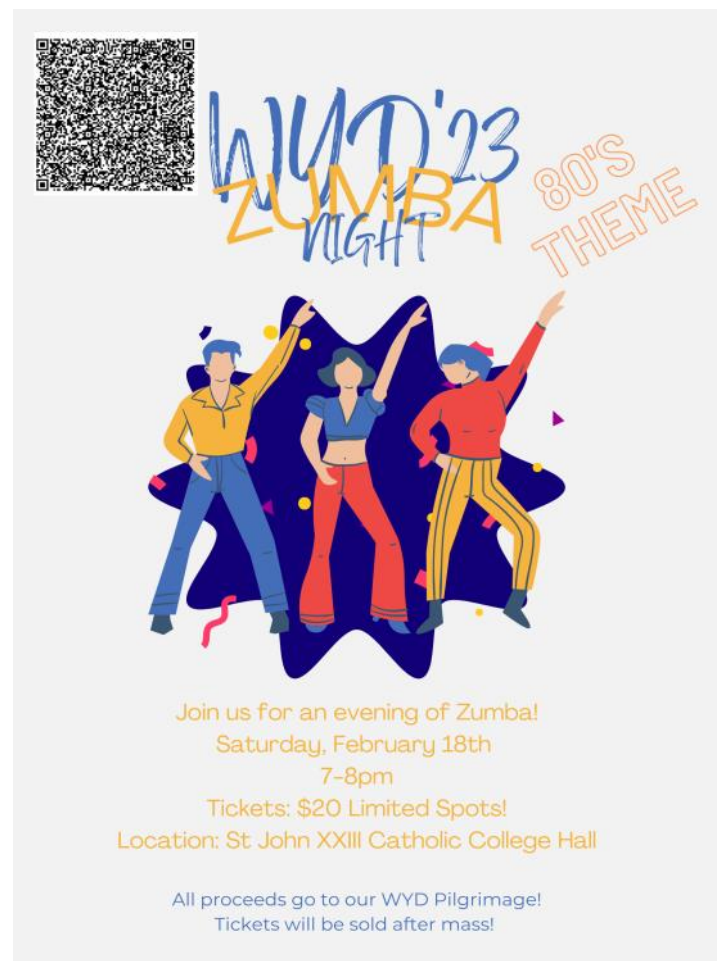
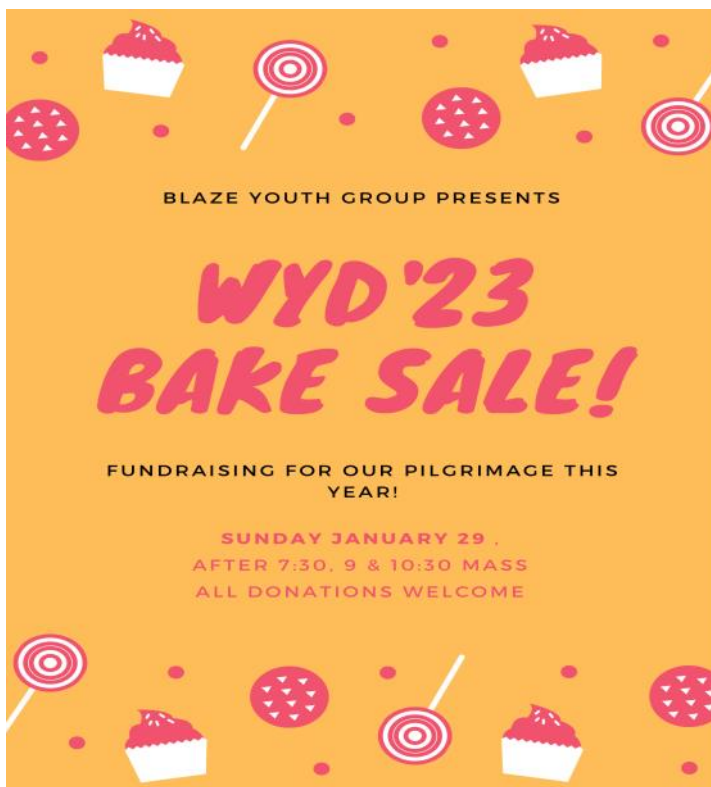
Now that the church is open for celebrations, its floors need to be swept of dust, cobwebs brushed off, candle stands cleaned and garden kept green. We would like to request all our volunteer cleaners and gardeners to come back and continue their ministry.

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

⇒ **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



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,

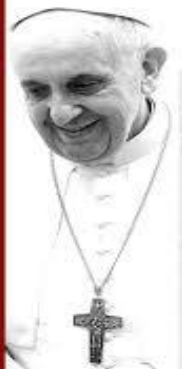
✉ blaze@john23rd.org.au

or visit our FB page

www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/



BLAZE REGISTRATION FORM



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

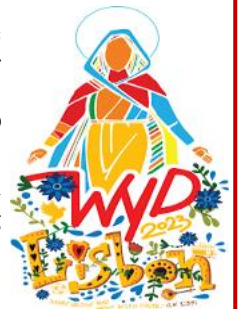
YFC Australia

Jonathan Montaos - 0401 478733

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

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



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>



Faith and Formation session for

Catholic Health Care Professionals

Saturday 11 February 2023 9am-10.30am

All-Saints of Africa Centre, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown

Followed by World Day of the Sick Mass with Anointing at 11:00am

RSVP by 06 Feb to met@parracatholic.org

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, NSW 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.





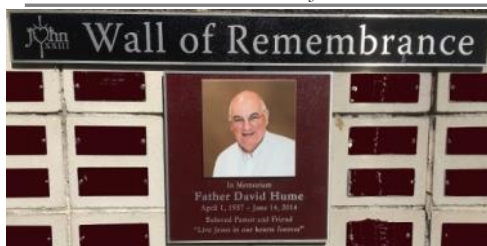
Congratulations !!!

Fr Jolly Chacko

*25th Anniversary of
your
Priestly Ordination*

*May you always be rewarded for your passion,
dedication and continued hard work in serving
the parish community of St John 23rd.*

*We thank you and we pray that God grant you
strength, good health and grace to continue the
good work you provide in our parish community!
Congratulations on reaching this milestone!*



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?

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- In-house Allied health and Dental clinic

Books are now open for new patients

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www.qhfp.com.au

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, **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

ADVERTISE HERE



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.