

Three times in Matthew's Gospel in connection with his suffering is Jesus proclaimed Son of David: once by blind men just before he enters Jerusalem (Matt 20:31), and then by the crowds as he enters Jerusalem as they wave their palm fronds at him wildly (Matt 21:9, 15), which we hear in conjunction with our own procession. It has occurred already on four other occasions in Matthew: in the very opening sentence (Matt 1:1), with another cure of two blind men (Matt 9:27), on the lips of the crowd after the cure of a blind and mute man (Matt 12:23), and on the lips of the Canaanite mother of the possessed girl (Matt 15:22).

This connects him with Jewish expectation. The Jews were desperate for a new leader who would give them freedom, and restore their independence and dignity. The crowds shout hosanna, in praise of the one who is coming to rescue them, coming to save them. Matthew proclaims Jesus as the new king, but, even more importantly, a king in a new way. Matthew turns to the prophet Zechariah to show that the king comes not in a chariot leading an army, but on the back of a donkey, leading the poor and the blind (Zech 9:9). The important word that Matthew quotes from Zechariah is 'humble'.

This is the king not born in a blaze of publicity, but in obscurity; this is a king born not in a palace, but in a barn full of animals; this is a king not looked after by hordes of slaves and servants, but who looks after the needs of others; this is a king who does not rub shoulders with the rich and famous, but with the poor and rejected; this is a king crowned not with gold and precious stones, but with thorns; this is a king not lifted up on a throne, but on the cross of suffering and shame, humiliation and execution.

You may recall the forty-year advertising slogan of a fast-food outlet: 'have it your way'. That is what the Jews wanted; they wanted a king their way. 'No pickles', they shouted. 'We don't want humility, we want power; we don't want suffering, we want glory.' Well, pickles is what God offers us. If there is one reality the world should know about the story of Jesus, if there is one thing we should be prepared for if we wish to call ourselves followers of Jesus, it is that he was all about turning the world upside down.

The crowds at the gates missed it, the crowds at the trial before Pilate missed it, the crowds at Golgotha missed it, many Christians over the centuries have missed it. Jesus came to suffer, to be insulted, to be spat upon, to make no resistance. St Augustine of Hippo said:

Someone is sure to ask: 'If he had such power, why did he not demonstrate it when his enemies were taunting him and saying: "If he is the Son of God, let him come down from the cross"?' He was showing us how to endure; that was why he deferred the exercise of his power. If he were to come down because he was stung by their words, they would think he had succumbed to their mockery. (In Euangelium Iohannis Tractatus 37)

If we wave our palm branches and walk behind Jesus today, we walk the way of the cross. This is the path we take this week. We thank God that the Son of David is the suffering servant. We thank God that Jesus has walked it before us. We thank God for the Spirit, who has enabled the martyrs to walk it after him. We thank God for the many other people who, in the simplicity and obscurity of their everyday lives, have walked it after him. We thank God that the way of death to sin is the way to life eternal.

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
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Masses for Special Occasions

1st Tues	7:30pm Novena Mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
1st Fri	7:30pm Novena Mass <i>Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>

Exposition + Benediction

1st Fri	after 9.15am 7.30pm
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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
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Devotions & Prayers

Mon	7.30pm Christian Meditation <i>Frances Pegram 0417 406715</i>
Fri	6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group <i>Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039</i>

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.

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

The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna in the highest.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



Gospel Acclamation

John 11:25, 26

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 27:11-54

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgment, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him: it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Hyacintha Pavirajasingam, Roland Rayeroox, Kathy Zdilar

Anniversary:

Natividad Reyes

Sick: Names published with permission.

Susanne Krajancic, Hilary Regan, Elsie Knapp, Ben & Etta Benesa, Roland, Michael, Rosario, Elizabeth Langley, Father Joseph, Wally Atie, Karam Matte, Liv Toole, Geoffrey Robinson, Valeria Laureta, Peter Dawson, Carrie Conolly, Tony Muscat, Isagani Ocampo, Cindy Dadivas Adolfo Mayo, Cristina Arceo, Charlie Busuttil, Adrian Gould, Kelly Ryan, Raymond Lanzona, Mavie Dela Cruz, Greg Marcellana, Bev Lewis, Maria Romeo, Gloria Bueno, Sophie De Leon, Florencia Cunanan, Rosamma John Pellissery, Anshu Mala Nand, Emma Matoza, Zoey Illic, Dragica Julich, Virginia Santos, Jenat Perera, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Maryanne Jaramillo, Elizabeth Candame, Barbara Thompson, Christina Properzi, Rhonda & Damian, Elizabeth Newnes, Baby Julian Samuel, Florentina Elisura, Deidre Thomson, Zenira D'Souza, Jennifer Estrada, Perla Magculang, Leopoldo Cuisia, Jonathan Gemin, Mario Matias

Thanksgiving:

Luz Borrromeo

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).



Novena mass - 7:30pm every First Tuesday

Join us for novena prayers every Tuesday, 7:00pm then pick up our Lady's statue. Roster below.

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

Rosary Statue Family Roster

Apr	4	11	18	25	
	Deang	Jacob	Ring	Sebastian	
May	2	9	16	23	30
	Vernon	Paguinto	Erasmo B	Sebastian	Tina B
Jun	6	13	20	27	
	Shalini	Cayas	Richards	Barnouti	
Jul	4	11	18	25	
	D'Souza	Ring	Vernon	Jacob	
Aug	1	8	15	22	29
	Lozada	Meena B	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	Jacob

"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.

Page 2 Gospel continued

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me!' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

All kneel and pause a moment.

At that, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

Communion Antiphon

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

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



PRAYING in the SILENCE of the HEART

God of peace,

by your Holy Spirit you enable us to
cross the deserts of the heart, and by
your forgiveness, you scatter our faults
like the morning mist.

Brother Roger of Taizé

April Church Calendar

Mon	3	8:30am - Mass
Tues	4	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary prayers followed by Novena Mass Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	5	9:15am - Mass
Thurs	6	Holy Thursday 7:30pm - Maundy Thursday Mass (School Hub)
Fri	7	Good Friday 10:00am - Stations of the Cross - St Mark's School ground 3:00pm - Veneration of the Cross (School hub)
Sat	8	7:30pm - Easter Vigil Mass (church)
Sun	9	Easter Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am - Mass 6:00 pm - Mass

Pastoral Ministries

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.

⇒ 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 Druiitt 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

DRIVEWAY/CARPARK SAFETY

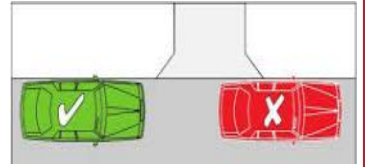
For everyone's safety, please **park at least 1.8 meters from the church's driveway entrance.**

Your parked vehicle must not block the flow of traffic or impair the vision of other drivers getting into or out of the parking lot, basically impeding vehicles from entering, exiting or turning into or from the church's driveway.

Vehicle safety is more than just staying alert when parking your car. Let us not become a danger to other road users.

Remember to always please use the footpath when walking around the church parking lot, again for safety reasons.

Please make sure when you come to Mass, let us consider our neighbours. Do not block the neighbours' driveway.



St John 23rd Parish

RCIA PROGRAM

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

This year our Parish is blessed to have four catechumens who are in their final weeks of preparation to receive the Sacraments.

Abbey Barron

Jacqueline Hooper

Daniel Lennard

Shane Lombardo

Abbey and Jacqueline will be baptized and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist while Daniel and Shane will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, only, during the Easter Vigil celebration.

Please continue to pray for them and their families as they go through their final preparation in their faith journey.

May they be strengthened and blessed with the grace to grow and know the faith.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

YOUNG AT HEART

"The Young at Heart" Seniors group will have their next event on Monday 17th of April for an Easter Monday Morning Tea at the church kitchen after the 8.30am mass.

We also encourage all seniors of the Parish to come along and join the group for a cuppa, yummy food and have a chat and enjoy each other's company.

Please bring a plate to share.

SAVE THE DATE FREE!



Dear Parishioners,

We are Looking for the Bible Study Program entitled **'THE BIBLE AND THE VIRGIN MARY'** which was kept in the Parish Office. It consists of 5 DVDs, a Leader Guide Book, and a Workbook. If you have borrowed it from the Parish Office a few years ago, could you please kindly return it to Tanya at the said office. Another ministry would like to make use of the Study. Thank you very much for your kind attention



THE BIBLE
and the
VIRGIN MARY
JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

'On Our Knees' Booklet – April 2023 issue

Each booklet is a powerful aid to personal prayer, including personal reflections based on 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 will be kept in the church foyer. We pray that this resource blesses you and leads you deeper in your journey with Christ.

Easter Triduum

Easter Triduum is a term used by the Roman Catholic Church to denote the three days from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. The Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends after evening prayers at sunset on Easter Day.

The term was used at the Second Vatican Council, when the revised liturgical calendar set the final part of Holy Week apart from Lent proper. Previously, these three days had already gained distinction from the rest of Holy Week with an observance of silence, which were also known as "the still days." During Mass, music was not to be played and all church bells were silenced. People were also encouraged to observe silence in their homes during this time.

Holy Thursday

The first celebration of the Triduum is the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. This Mass celebrates the last meal Jesus shared with his Twelve Apostles and disciples before his death. (cf. Paul the Apostle recounted in 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, as well as the synoptic Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke)

After the homily on Holy Thursday, we imitate our master in the washing of feet. This ritual reminds us that our baptismal commitment means we are to be servants of one another. In the time of St. Ambrose in Milan, those who were baptized also had their feet washed, because of Jesus' words to Peter: "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed" (Jn 13:10). Many scholars have seen a baptismal reference in those words.

Per se, the Mass does not end. There is no dismissal or final blessing. The evening's celebration concludes with a "stripping of the altar" in which not only are all decorations removed, the Blessed Sacrament is taken from the tabernacle on the main altar and processed to an altar of repose outside the main body of the church. The sanctuary candle or paschal candle is extinguished or darkened, and not relit until the Easter Vigil. Eucharistic Adoration is common after the Holy Thursday Mass and continuing until midnight. It is reminiscent of waiting with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Also in Roman Catholicism, images of saints are either kept or veiled until the Easter Vigil. Votive lights before these images are not lit. Crucifixes that are movable are hidden, while those that are not movable are veiled until the Easter Vigil.

Good Friday

On this day, Christians ritually recall the Passion and crucifixion of Jesus. Mass is not celebrated on this day, however, Holy Communion (reserved in the tabernacle on the altar of repose from the previous evening) is distributed at the Celebration of the Lord's Passion. The celebration traditionally occurs at 3 pm and consists of three parts: liturgy of the Word, veneration of the cross, and Holy Communion.

The first part, the Liturgy of the Word, consists of the reading or chanting of Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, and the Passion account from the Gospel of John. The second part of the Good Friday liturgy is the Veneration of the Cross: a cross is solemnly displayed to the congregation and then venerated by them, individually if possible. The third and last part is Holy Communion. The Eucharist, consecrated at the Mass of Holy Thursday is distributed at this service. At the conclusion, the priest and people depart in silence, and the altar cloth is removed, leaving the altar bare.

Holy Saturday

Following Good Friday, Holy Saturday is a commemoration of the day that Jesus lay in his tomb. In the Roman Catholic Church, daytime Masses are never offered. It is a time of waiting.

Easter Vigil (Saturday after sunset)

Held after nightfall of Holy Saturday, or before dawn on Easter Day, in anticipation of the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

The Easter Vigil consists of four parts:

- The Service of Light
- The Liturgy of the Word
- Christian Initiation and the Renewal of Baptismal Vows
- Holy Eucharist

The Service of Light

The Vigil service begins outside the church around a large fire. This new fire symbolizes the radiance of the Risen Christ dispelling the darkness of sin and death. The Paschal candle is blessed and then lit. This Paschal candle will be used throughout the season of Easter, remaining in the sanctuary of the church or near the lectern, and throughout the coming year at baptisms and funerals, reminding all, that Christ is "light and life."

Once the candle has been lit there follows the ancient and dramatic rite of the Lucernarium, in which the candle is carried by a priest through the nave of the darkened church, stopping three times to chant an acclamation such as 'Christ our Light' to which the assembly responds 'Thanks be to God.' As the candle proceeds through the church, the baptized light their candles from the flame of the Paschal candle. As this symbolic "Light of Christ" spreads throughout those gathered, the darkness is dispersed. Once the procession has reached the sanctuary of the altar, with the church lit only by candle light, the Exultet (Easter Proclamation) is intoned.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word consists of seven readings from the Old Testament, although it is permitted to reduce this number for pastoral reasons (if reduced, it is customary to use readings 1, 3, 5 and 7). Each reading is followed by a psalm and a prayer relating what has been read in the Old Testament to the Mystery of Christ. After these readings conclude, the Gloria is sung for the first time since before Lent (with the exception of Holy Thursday, which is the only time it is heard during the 40 days of Lent), and the church bells and the organ, silent since that point on Holy Thursday, are sounded again – The opening collect (prayer) is read. A reading from the Epistle to the Romans is proclaimed, followed by the chanting of Psalm 118. The Alleluia is sung for the first time since the beginning of Lent. The Gospel of the Resurrection is proclaimed.

The Rite of Christian Initiation

People desiring to full initiation in the Church who have completed their formation are formally initiated as members of the faith the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist; the latter is celebrated during the Liturgy of the Eucharist). The Initiation celebration consists of the Baptismal Liturgy (litany of the saints, blessing of the baptismal waters, Baptism celebration, and Confirmation celebration, and a renewal of Baptismal vows of all present.

The Easter Vigil then concludes with a Liturgy of the Eucharist.



Good Friday



6th April, Thursday	7th April, Friday	8th April, Saturday	9th April, Sunday
7:30pm Mass (School Hub) Holy hours after the Celebration of Mass of the Lord's Supper <u>the church will be open till midnight for anyone who might want to stay and pray.</u>	10:00 am - Stations of the Cross (St Mark's school ground) 3:00 pm - Veneration of the Cross (School Hub)	7:30 pm - Easter Vigil Mass (Church) Inc Rite of Christian Initiation by 4 catechumens	7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:00 pm

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*)
YOUTH LEADERS

Rojith de Silva 0405 9563210
Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009

YFC (*Youth for Christ*)
YOUTH LEADERS

YFC International
Vince Erasmo 0406 253698
YFC Australia
Jonathan Montaos 0401 478733



WYD Appeal - Blaze Youth

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO OUR ENDEAVOURS

We will continue to try and raise funds every by hosting various events to support the participating youths of our wonderful church. BLAZE leaders hope to raise \$20,000 and we are still way off our mark.. If you'd like to make a contribution towards our goal, you can avail of the Parish's BPoint account site <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/SjJohnXXIIIPGSG> 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 you can contact us via email blaze@john23rd.org.au

EASTER CELEBRATION

Easter Sunday, 9th April after the 10:30am mass

Kids up to age 10 years are welcome

1 parent or adult can assist if need be.

Bring 6 chocolate eggs as your entry to the Egg Hunt and handover to the Liturgy Team before the 10:30am mass

For those participating, please stay in the church at the end of the mass and wait for further instructions

Additional prizes will be available



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



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



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



'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.

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>

CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 7 April

Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk>

MET FaithLIFE Scripture Course: Starting 2 May

Want to learn more about different ways to pray? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on "Prayer" with Br Barry Donaghue, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesdays: 2 + 9 + 16 May. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/faithlife/>

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

COELIACS

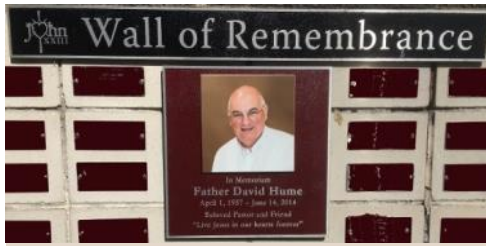
Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion with a gluten low host. Please inform the acolyte before Mass.

Support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community.

"God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called."
— recently ordained priest, Father Matthew Dimian.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal
yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Please support Catholic Mission



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



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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. 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.**

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Julienne Crasto
Bing Catabas

Chris Drummond
Margaret Harrison
Nanette Gamboa
Gary Lee

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PARISH SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL GAME ON!!



10:00 AM SATURDAYS
ST JOHN XXIII COLLEGE GROUNDS

Joseph - 0404 793800

Jason - 0427 933199

Preema - 0406 786768



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.



Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm



PRAISE AND WORSHIP

3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm
SJ23rd Prayer Group