



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.

'Abram went as the Lord told him.' Abraham is the central figure from chapters 12 to 25 of Genesis and this one sentence, at the start of chapter 12 after God calls him, sums up everything we need to know about him: he did what God asked of him. Just as he was called to follow, God calls each of us. In our initiation we answer that call.

But where does that call take us? At the end of the fourth block of narrative material in Matthew's Gospel, we find the story of the transfiguration of Jesus. It is a moment of divine revelation about Jesus' identity—just as, at his baptism, the heavenly voice confirms Jesus as the beloved Son. To this is added the instruction that disciples are to listen to him.

Here they are up a high mountain alone, away from everyone and everything. It is easy to find God in the peace and quiet, it is easy to appreciate God surrounded by a majestic mountain-top view. St Augustine of Hippo, in one of his homilies in the fifth century, focused on this reaction from Peter:

Saint Peter was delighted with the solitude; he had grown tired of the turbulent, troublesome human race. He saw the mountain, he saw the Lord, he saw Moses and Elijah ... He was delighted with this quiet, leisurely, blissful life, and said to the Lord: 'Lord, it is good for us to be here.' Why go down the mountain to be subjected to all that turbulence? Why not rather decide to enjoy ourselves here? It is good for us to be here. (Sermo 79A.)

The story of the transfiguration of Jesus is one rich in symbolism. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the summary of the Jewish faith. As Augustine said in that same homily: 'In Moses we have the law, in Elijah the prophets. When we put forward anything from the gospel, we back it up from the law and prophets'. The transfiguration shows us a moment of glory, it shows us our destination. Like any kid in the back of a car, our question during this season of Lent is 'are we there yet?' The answer is that, although we can experience a part of that glory, although we get a taste of it every time we share in the eucharist, we are not there yet.

In Matthew's account of the transfiguration, what we find before this story is the first prediction of the suffering and resurrection of Jesus (Matt 16:21-23), and the doctrine of the cross (Matt 16:24-28): 'If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and begin to follow in my footsteps'. Shortly after the transfiguration story we have the second prediction of the passion (Matt 17:22-23). The structure of the story is not accidental: the only way to glory is through the cross.

The author of the second letter to Timothy captures this reality: 'bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy'. Abraham's call led him to hardship, but he trusted in that call, even in dark and difficult days. Yes, Jesus has abolished death; yes, Jesus has proclaimed life and immortality; yes, the Lord will rescue our souls from death. However, the only way to life is through death. In the unintentionally profound words of the 1970s' musical, Jesus Christ Superstar, 'to conquer death you only have to die'.

Lent is our season of death. We must die to sin. We die to selfishness every time we tell the truth; we die to selfishness every time we forgive someone who hurts us; we die to selfishness every time we refuse to join in and spread gossip about someone; we die to selfishness every time we say a kind word to a stranger; we die to selfishness every time we offer a helping hand to anyone in need; we die to selfishness every time we reach out in love. Lent is our season of dying to sin so that we can rise to the new life of Easter.

We are thankful today for the faithfulness of Abraham, who went as the Lord told him. We are thankful today for Moses and Elijah pointing the way to Jesus. We are thankful today for Jesus, who showed us the way to life through overcoming sin and death. We are thankful today for our sisters and brothers who die to sin by listening and trusting in the faithfulness of God's Word.

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 <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

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis 12:1-4

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

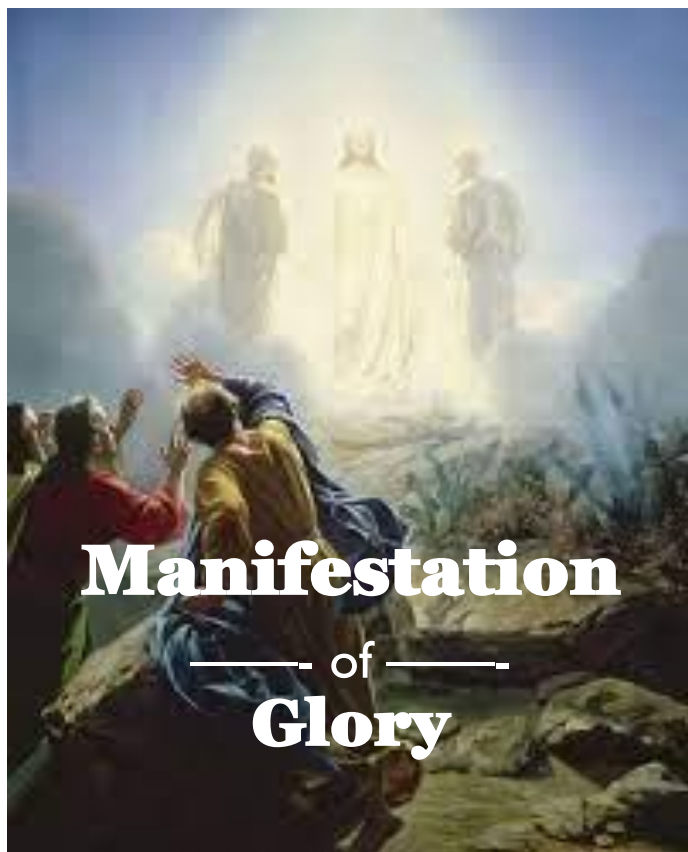
Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **R.**



Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 1:8-10

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him!'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Keith Wilkinson, Beth Bunyon, Michael Agius, Jocelyn Pahn Batcheldor

Anniversary:

Priscilla & Sebastian, Carmen Horrd, Jimmy Sia Virata

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

Paul, Louis and Family, Jay & Ammy Reyes

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

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
Jun	6	13	20	27	
	Shalini	available	Richards	Barnouti	
Jul	4	11	18	25	
	available	available	Vernon	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.

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 loving in us.

Your presence in us is loving and constant forgiveness.

Brother Roger of Taizé

LOST & FOUND

LOST ITEMS LEFT AT CHURCH

If you have lost eye glasses, sunnies, pocket purse etc. please contact the parish office on 8883 5981.

March Church Calendar

Mon	6	8:30am - Mass
Tues	7	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Mass Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	8	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Thurs	9	9:15am - Mass 9:15am - Mass - Holy Cross
Fri	10	9:15am - Mass - church 7:00pm - Station of the Cross
Sat	11	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	12	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am - Mass 6:00 pm - Mass

Stations of the Cross



This season of Lent
join us every Friday
at 7:00pm

followed by 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.



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 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

PLANNED GIVING

We encourage everyone to join in the planned giving to the parish.

Please fill up the forms on the pews and drop it off in either the "planned giving" box in the front foyer or in the letter box near the sacristy.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

For information on different ministries and planned giving, please speak with the team members who are available at the front entrance of the church.

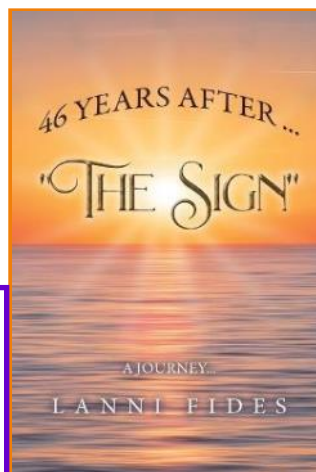


On Our Knees' Booklet – March 2023 issue

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.



Lanni Fides who is one of our parishioners, has kindly donated a few copies of her books to be sold with all proceeds going towards our WYD fundraising. If interested, please feel free to purchase a copy after mass at the front foyer for \$20.

"The Sign" is an inspiring-testimonial journey of a migrant couple from St John XXIII parish, about love, marriage, family life and spirituality! This book reveals the greatness & faithfulness of God to his people! A book for all ages.



After losing her father when she was just 10-years-old, Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village.

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

The **Young at Heart** is organizing a Morning Coffee Outing, have a bit of get together after the 9:15 am mass. Location is at Annangrove, within the historic Amaroo Park (10 minutes away from SJ23rd Church)

When: 8th March, Wednesday

Where: Vanilla Cream Café, Annangrove

All Seniors of the Parish who would like to join, please contact Frank, on 0459 504625, no later than Sunday the 5th March for table reservations.

Come and join this fun filled and adventurous group, enjoying life and the camaraderie of like minded parishioners.



Lent is the time of year when God obligates us to prepare our hearts and to purify our souls so that we are ready to receive Our Lord in His glorious coming at Easter. There's no time to delay. The Bible says, "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

During this season, every day we should try to make a good examination of conscience by asking ourselves these questions:

Is there something I can do to get closer to God?

Is there something I can do to know God better and to love Him more?

Is there some way I can increase my desire for prayer?

Is there some way I can rekindle that fire of divine love that might have gone out in my life?

Is there some way I can rid myself of the spiritual mediocrity, the spiritual indifference that I find myself in so much of the time?

Is there something I can give up?

Is there something in my life right now that is not pleasing to Almighty God?

Is there some sin that I am holding on to?

Is there some habitual sin that is separating my heart from God's loving grace?

Is there something I need to confess?

Am I crucifying Our Lord all over again by living in my sins?

Further, we should pray every day:

Lord, let there be less of me and more of You. Let me say no to my will and yes to Yours. God, give me the grace to love You more today than yesterday and more tomorrow than today.

The Fatima seer Jacinta spoke this challenging truth: "If men only knew what eternity is, how they would make all possible efforts to amend their lives." With this in mind, let us explore the special grace God gives us in the sacrament of Confession to help us on that journey of sanctification.

Be Watchful

Our Lord warned us throughout the Gospel to be watchful. We must be on our guard, and that means keeping our souls in the state of grace, because we can never know the day or the hour when He will come.

To help us to do that, Almighty God has given us the great gift of His Mercy in the Sacrament of Penance. It has become painfully obvious to me, both from personal pastoral experience and from polling data, that the vast majority of Catholics in our country gave up the practice of sacramental Confession long ago. This is truly a tragedy. First of all, the sacrament of Penance is the ordinary means for the forgiveness of mortal sins committed after Baptism. But it is also a veritable treasure of graces and spiritual strength for us in our daily struggle against sin and temptation.

Pope Pius XII said many times that the great sin of our age is, in fact, the denial of sin. "Sin" has become a dirty word that we don't want to mention anymore, even from the pulpit. Doesn't it strike you as odd that the more sin there is in the world, the less Catholics — clergy, theologians, and laypeople — seem to say about it? This is theological insanity. Worse, it is spiritual suicide. There is only one thing that can separate us from God, and that is mortal sin. To conceal the reality of sin is, quite simply, to play the devil's game. It is to fall into his trap.

I am reminded of the words of St. Paul: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings" (2 Tim. 4:3). That day has now arrived. Most people today see enjoyment of this life as being more important than eternity. We don't want to hear the truth because the truth makes us feel uncomfortable — because the truth sometimes demands that we change our lives, our minds, and our hearts toward God and toward others.

Biblical Repentance

When Jesus called the twelve Apostles and began to send them out to preach, He gave them authority and the power to cure the sick and to raise the dead and to give sight to the blind, the power to cast out demons and to make cripples walk — the power, that is, to bring healing to every kind of human suffering. But the Gospel also tells us that, despite that awesome authority, the most important mission that Christ gave the Apostles was to preach the need for repentance. "Repentance" is one of the most important and most frequently used words in all of Sacred Scripture.

Jesus' first words when He began His public ministry were, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). And Our Lord told the Apostles that, in any place where people refused to hear that word and act on it, they were to leave that place and to shake the dust from their feet as a testimony against those people (Matt. 10:14.) Every messenger ever sent by God in both the Old and New Testaments was sent to preach a message of repentance. No one can be a disciple of Christ, or even claim the name "Christian," unless that person is willing to repent.

What is Repentance?

What exactly are we talking about when we speak of repentance? First and most simply, to repent means to recognize the reality of personal sin in your life — and to turn away from it. It means putting sin out of your life and changing your life according to God's Will, even when God's Will doesn't conform to your opinions.

Secondly, to repent means to seek the loving mercy of God with a spirit of true contrition. Contrition is more than just sorrow for sin; there are three elements to true contrition: sorrow for the sins you've committed, hatred for those sins and all sin, and a firm purpose of amendment, which means that you intend to try, with the help of God's grace, not to commit the same sins in the future.

Third, to repent means to accept God's word and God's law and to make it your way of life. It means putting faith into action. We are saved by faith working through love. Salvation is not by faith alone, and it never was. The Apostle St. James wrote, "Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17). Our faith must be a living faith. It can't be inactive or moribund. That won't cut it with God.

And finally, to repent means to do penance. Whether we realize it or not, even our most hidden sins in some mysterious way disturb the entire order of God's creation. They cause a diminishing of grace in the Mystical Body of Christ. God expects us to make reparation for the harm caused by our sins against Him and against our neighbors.

None of us will ever see the vision of God in Heaven unless we are humble enough to know and to admit that we are sinners in need of God's mercy. There are no exceptions. We should never be ashamed or afraid to admit that because the Bible says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

Sacrament of Penance

Jesus said to His Apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41). All of us feel the attractive power of sin in our lives. All of us have to struggle to control our disordered passions. There's always the danger that we can give in to temptation and fall into mortal sin in a moment of weakness. Therefore, there's an ongoing need for repentance in our lives.

This is why Our Lord in His infinite wisdom gave us the sacrament of His Mercy, the Sacrament of Penance! He gave it to us on that first Easter Sunday, when He appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room after His Resurrection, a critical moment in the history of the Church. We are told about this in the Gospel of St. John: "He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' " (John 20:22–23).

Every Catholic should have those verses memorized. We should know them by heart so that we can be ready to answer whenever our faith is called into question on this matter. The Gospel shows us clearly that Jesus gave His disciples the power to forgive sins in His Name. But — and this is important — He did not give them the power to read minds! How could the disciples know which sins to forgive and which to retain if no one would confess? We have the practice of sacramental Confession because it has been handed down to us from the Apostles by the will of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That is why Confession, in one form or another, has been the practice of Christian believers from the very beginning.

Interior Transformation

You see, Jesus left us this sacrament because He knew well what sin and guilt can do to the human soul. They can tear the human soul apart — separate it from God. They can drive a person to despair. God knows we need to have some way to be free of sin and guilt because they can rob us of the inner peace and joy that should be ours as Christian believers — the peace and joy that come with having a clear conscience before God.

The human spirit needs to be at peace with God, and we need to be at peace with ourselves. We need to know for sure that God has forgiven

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 (<i>Community of the Risen Lord</i>) YOUTH LEADERS	YFC (<i>Youth for Christ</i>) YOUTH LEADERS
Rojith de Silva 0405 956 3210 Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009	<u>YFC International</u> Vince Erasmo 0406 253698 <u>YFC Australia</u> Jonathan Montaos 0401 478733

HOLY CROSS MASS TIMES every

Date/Week	Grade attending the Mass	Reconciliation after Mass
Week 7: 9th Mar	Year 6	
Week 8: 16th Mar	Year 1	Year 4
Week 9: 23rd Mar	Year 4	
Week 10: 30th Mar	Kindergarten	

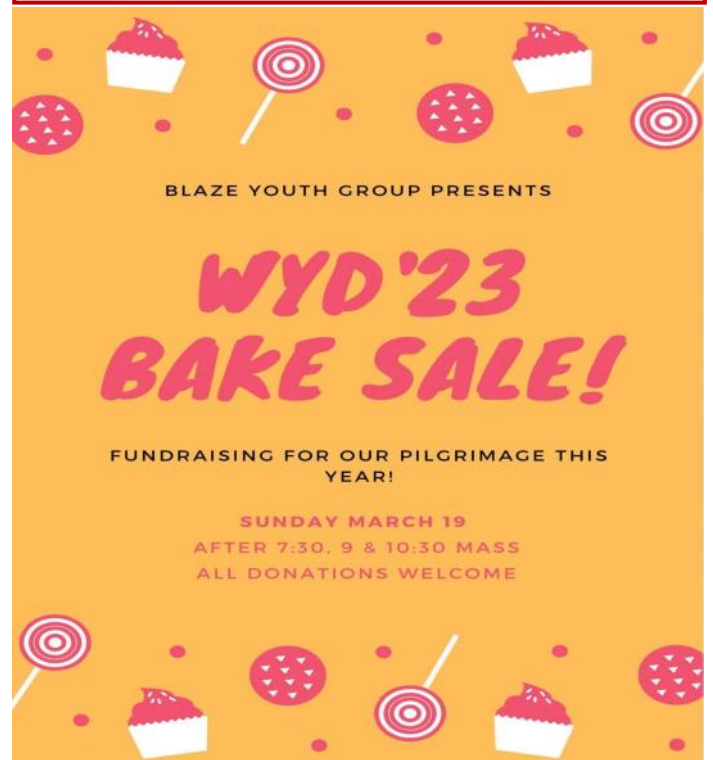
WYD Appeal - Blaze Youth

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/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 you can contact us via email blaze@john23rd.org.au



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>



KINDERGARTEN 2024 OPEN DAY

**TUESDAY 7 MARCH, 2023
FROM 3:45PM**



SCAN TO REGISTER OR
HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER
www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au



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us. We need to be able to experience God's merciful love as it touches our lives. There will be times in our lives, we know well, when we will need to make a new start spiritually, when we will need to wipe the slate clean and start over again. When we do this, we will need to be strengthened by God's grace to avoid the same sins in the future. That is how the sacrament of Confession helps to transform us interiorly.

Confession Leads to Holiness

The beauty of the sacrament of Penance is that whenever you confess your sins to the best of your ability and the best of your memory — when you don't hold anything back and you are truly sorry and you have a firm purpose of amendment — you always leave the confessional with that confident assurance of God's complete forgiveness.

Many people worry unnecessarily about the sins they might have forgotten in their Confession. But the human mind is not like a computer that can access all the data it needs at just the right moment. Our memories are dimmed with our fallen human nature. When you've made a good Confession, all your sins are forgiven, so long as you have a contrite heart. God sees the interior of the heart. And if later you should remember some sin that you have forgotten to confess, just bring it up in your next Confession. It's as simple as that.

The idea is to avoid mortal sin completely and to seek true holiness of life! The objective is to become saints! Those who have lapsed into this complacent mind-set have forgotten about the power of sacramental grace — that it is an effective barrier against sins and a very effective means to personal holiness.

It is because of God's infinite love for us that He commands us to make use the sacrament of Penance. It is in this sacrament that we release the past to God's mercy, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.

<https://catholicexchange.com/go-confession-lent/>

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

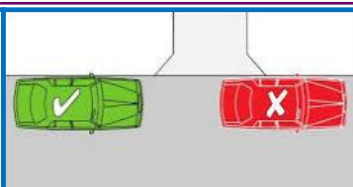
COELIACS

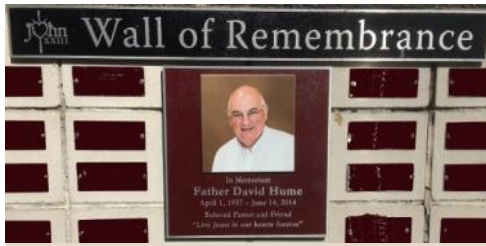
Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion with a gluten low host. Please inform the acolyte before Mass.



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

For everyone's safety, please park at least a meter and a half from the church's driveway so as not to impede vehicles from entering, exiting or turning into or from the church's driveway. Vehicle safety is about more than just staying alert when parking your car.





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



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.

