



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.

We all know today's gospel passage as the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It all sounds fairly bland; it's as though it is the story of two people out for a Sunday stroll. But it is not so simple. The clue comes from when the storyteller informs us that their faces were downcast. This is not the story of two disciples: it is the story of two ex-disciples. It is not the story of two heading to Emmaus, but of two running away from Jerusalem.

They had been followers of Jesus, they had seen what he could do and they had believed. But they believed in what they wanted to believe in, not in what God was offering them. They wanted a prophet who would set Israel free. For them that meant one thing: get rid of the Romans and restore the old kingdom of David. They wanted a future that met their expectations. Instead, the God of surprises gave them something different. God had given them someone handed over to be sentenced to death and crucified. As far as they were concerned it was game over; there was nothing positive in that. God had failed them and they were going home. Even when some of their group told them they had seen the risen Lord, these two did not believe them. Dying, let alone rising again, was not part of the plan; it was not what they had signed up for. They were out of there, their minds were closed. Their minds were so closed that even when the risen Lord himself came and walked beside them they failed to recognise him.

Augustine of Hippo was aware of this, when he said in one of his homilies, "These two, even when the Lord was talking to them, did not have faith, because they didn't believe he had risen, nor had they any hope that he could rise again. They had lost faith, lost hope. They were walking along, dead, with Christ alive, they were walking along, dead, with life itself. Life was walking along with them, yet in their hearts life had not yet been restored" (Sermo 235).

How many of us, or how many members of our families or people we know, are like this? We have given Christianity a go and it has not worked out for us. We wanted God to do something for us, and it did not happen. We put God to the test, and God let us down. The message of today's gospel is that when life is getting us down, when we feel all alone and just want to run away and hide, there is the risen Lord walking along side us. As the psalmist says, if we know and see that the Lord is at our right hand, then we can stand firm. We look around us and we see nothing, lo! he is here with us. Here is the reality we proclaim: we do not have to find God: God has already found us. All we have to do is see the grace of God that surrounds us.

How did Cleopas and his friend open their eyes? Augustine tell us in that same homily he preached, 'You too, then, if you want to have life, do what they did in order to recognise the Lord. They showed him hospitality ... Constrain the stranger, if you want to recognise the saviour. What had been lost through infidelity was restored through hospitality'. Already their hearts were burning within them and their hospitality was their response to the gift of hope that he was giving them once again. Be kind to the stranger, for that person may just be the risen Lord.

In the hospitality of the meal, they suddenly realised. Israel was indeed free, not free from the Romans but free from sin. Jesus had bought freedom not by spilling other people's blood, but by spilling his own. In the wine poured out into the cup Cleopas and his friend saw the truth of who God is. Only when bread is broken and shared are people nourished. Israel was indeed restored, not for power but for service. The broken bread we eat here each week, and the poured-out wine we drink here each week, tell us that living comes from dying and receiving comes from giving. The challenge for those of us who eat his body and drink his blood is to become him for others. Our mission is to be the risen Lord walking beside those who have lost hope and faith. Our mission is to explain the Scriptures to others, to make their hearts burn with new life. Our mission is to have our bodies broken in love and service of others, particularly the stranger; to have our blood poured out in love and service of others, particularly the downtrodden.

There are so many things to thank God for today: for the risen Lord who finds us when we run away; for the Lord who changes despair into hope; for the Lord who rekindles our hospitality; for the Lord who gave himself that we may live; for opening our eyes to see him who is no longer with us in the flesh, through his body and blood that we share. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.

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
Thur 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

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.'

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life, and the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:17-21

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

life changing

JOURNEY

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Elizabeth Newnes, Hyacintha Pavirajasingam, Beryl Foster

Deceased:

Anniversary:

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

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	Erasmus 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 emcpi85@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

Praised be the Holy Spirit!

Present in the depths of our souls and consuming the hard things in our lives by the fire of that presence.

Brother Roger of Taizé

April Church Calendar

Mon	24	8:30am
Tues	25	Anzac Day 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary prayers Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	26	Saint Mark (F) 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	27	9:15am - Mass
Fri	28	Saint Peter Chanel (M) 9:15am - Mass
Sat	29	Saint Catherine of Sienna (M) 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	30	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am - Mass 6:00 pm - Mass

Easter Offertory



Your gift supports our parish to share Christ's message of love and salvation with all

GIVE TO OUR PARISH

Select Stanhope
StJohn23rd Parish

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.

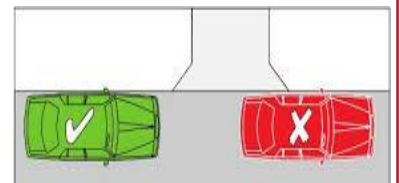
For more information on joining the SJ23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds at naomi1.rey@gmail.com

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 please always use the footpath on both sides of the church car park 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.





Cake Angels

St John 23rd

23 April Sunday, don't forget to support us and grab some sweet and savoury goodies. All proceeds from the cake stall will be donated to the Parish.

For any food donations, or if you would like to join this group of foodie parishioners and be a Cake Angel please contact Madeline Huang via: cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US

It was great catching up with everyone and enjoyed each other's company. Everyone had a wonderful good cuppa, sweets for the sweet and good stories shared.

Come and join like minded parishioners whose aim is to enjoy life and enrich their faith together. Please contact the parish office or Frank Coleiro 0459 504 625.



August 5, 2021

by Father James Goodwin



Why do we pray to Mary?

This is probably one of the most asked questions and is often a focus of criticism. Perhaps the place to start is the word “pray.” In English the word “pray” means simply “to ask.” It does not mean “worship.” Many Protestants equate the two terms, but they are not the same. In Catholicism the word “worship or adore” is *latria*. This is the adoration given only to God. Catholics do not worship

Mary as a goddess and we do not consider her divine. She is human just as we are, but she was chosen by God to be the Mother of Jesus who is God with us. Therefore, we call her Mother of God. We give her what we call *dulia*, which means “honor or venerate.” As in the command to honor your father and mother. When we ask her to pray, we are asking her to pray for us.

St. Paul recommends intercessory prayer for others and such prayer does not end when someone dies and goes to heaven. St. James wrote, “the prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.” Those in heaven can and do pray for us. That includes all the saints. We consider them to be our elder brothers and sisters in Christ who constantly pray for us before the throne of God. Praying to Mary and the saints is scriptural and part of Christian tradition all the way back to the early Church. One of the earliest prayers dates from the third century, “Mother of God, [listen to] my petitions; do not disregard us in adversity, but rescue us from danger.” In the catacombs, there are inscriptions asking for the prayers of the saints. Beneath St. Peter’s basilica was found the inscription, “Peter, pray for the holy Christian men buried near your body.” Thus we see devotion to a saint, prayers to a saint, and prayers for the dead all common practice in the early Church.

Our Code of Canon Law says in canon 1186: “To foster the sanctification of the people of God, the Church commends to the special and filial reverence of the Christian faithful the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Mother of God, whom Christ established as the

mother of all people, and promotes the true and authentic veneration of the other saints whose example instructs the Christian faithful and whose intercession sustains them.” There are a variety of ways that we show our devotion and ask the prayers of Mary and the saints. Many of these come from the long history of the Church and the wide variety of cultures that are part of our faith. These are tried and true ways to pray. The rosary has pride of place for Latin Catholics, but there are many other forms of prayer. Novenas, litanies, scapulars, medals, and other such devotions are part of the treasure of the Church. Catholics are free to pick which ones they find helpful.

Prayer is both simple and complicated. It is simple in that it can just be reciting the rosary. However, if one truly meditates on the mysteries of the rosary, you get into deeper concepts quickly. Faith deals with complicated issues, and so at times is complex in its answers. Our Catholic devotions can appeal to both the simple and the complicated parts of our lives. You can read part four of the Catechism of the Catholic Church for a summary of our teaching on prayer.

Given all of this information, what should we do? Personally, we can choose which devotions to Mary and the saints foster our spiritual lives. Everyone has different personalities and needs and there are plenty of ways to pray. Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but also the Mother of all of us who by baptism become brothers and sisters of Christ. Mary is our mother too and will always pray for us. We can also choose special patron saints who we ask to pray for us, maybe the one you are named after or your confirmation saint. These devotions help to remind us that we are part of the communion of saints and are never alone.

We can also share these things with our Protestant brethren. Many harbor misconceptions about the Church and our devotion to Mary and the saints. Christ is indeed our “one mediator between God and man,” but he invites all of us to pray for each other. In no way does our devotion to Mary and the saints diminish Christ. In fact, it leads us to a deeper relationship with Christ. Mary has only one command recorded in scripture, “do whatever he tells you.” Mary always leads us closer to her son. Catholics know this from 2,000 years of experience dating back to the Apostles. This is a great gift we can offer to non-Catholic Christians.

MAY – Month of Mary our Blessed Mother

The month of May is especially dedicated to our Blessed Mother. All honour and devotion that we give to Mary our Mother lead us to Jesus.

“Flowers for Mary” – For this month of May, we invite children to bring flowers to be offered to the Blessed Mother at mass. This gift of flowers is a sign of our love and thanksgiving for through her “Yes,” Jesus came to us.

“Living Rosary” – We will conclude our Marian Celebration with a Living Rosary on Saturday 27 May 2023 at 5:00 pm at St Mark’s Square to be followed by a procession that leads us to church for the Vigil Mass. We invite school-age children preferably from 8 years old up to come and participate in this exciting and special way of praying the rosary. This will be the second Living Rosary in our parish, and we would like to make this another memorable event. We remain hopeful that this will become an annual tradition. So please encourage your children/grandchildren to come and/or participate.

What is a Living Rosary?

A living rosary is when people are used to represent each bead of the rosary.

What we need:

- 50 children (10 per decade) to represent the Hail Mary beads
- 3 children (for the tail of the rosary) to represent the Hail Mary beads
- 1 child to represent the cross (the Apostle’s Creed)
- 6 children (2 for the tail of the rosary and 4 between each decade) to represent the Our Father Beads.

We will schedule rehearsal once we have the required number of children.

If you would like your child/children to be a part of this special event, please contact:

Helen Festejo

E: helen.festejo@gmail.com

Ph: 0401 671 665

OR

Taylor Coutinho

E: taylor.coutinho1999@gmail.com Ph: 0426 382 537

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 9563210 Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009	<u>YFC International</u> Vince Erasmo 0406 253698 <u>YFC Australia</u> 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. 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.hcglennwood.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
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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>

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

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

PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESAN SYNOD

O God, who always walks with us on the journey of life, we call upon you to lead us forth united.

Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.

Keep us anchored in your love. Open our hearts as we listen and discern. Reveal to us the way we are called to go out into the deep. Give us the courage to pursue the mission with bold humility.

May we experience renewal in our local Church today and for generations to come.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to guide your church, to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and forever.

Amen

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.



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

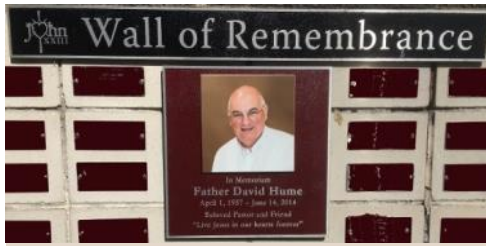
<http://john23rd.com/>

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.



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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Bernadette Virwani
Julienne Crasto
Bing Catabas

Chris Drummond
Margaret Harrison
Nanette Gamboa
Gary Lee

ADVERTISE HERE

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.

