



*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.*

Have you noticed how some of our Scripture readings throughout the weeks of this Easter season are set on the day of Easter? And how some, like today's first reading from Acts of the Apostles, are set on the day of Pentecost? This is a powerful reminder to us that what we celebrate during this season is not the chronological unfolding of a story but various reflections upon the one mystery: Easter and Pentecost are interwoven realities and we celebrate both together each day of our fifty-day season.

The first letter of Peter sums up this Easter mystery, saying that Christ died 'so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness'. Easter is about living the new life of conversion. It echoes Peter's address in Acts of the Apostles about repentance: baptism is for the forgiveness of sins and receiving the Spirit. It is not a one-off event, but something that is lived out day by day. Just as Easter is the victory of life over death in the person of Jesus, it is the victory of belonging and purpose over being lost and alone. The first letter of Peter describes this new reality with a metaphor: 'You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd'.

The shepherd image is, of course, the constant and powerful image for this Sunday in Easter. I remember reading somewhere once that in the first half of the twentieth century, Psalm (129)130, the De profundis, 'Out of the depths', was the psalm with which most Christians identified. It is one of the psalms of lamentation that emphasises human helplessness and longing. Perhaps the experiences of the two world wars during those decades make this an understandable choice. In the second half of the twentieth century, the same account continued, Psalm (22)23, 'The Lord is my shepherd', became more popular. It speaks of care and protection, of richness and fullness. Chapter 10 of John's Gospel, which we read over the three-year period of the lectionary cycle for this Sunday in Easter, takes up this pastoral image.

Today's particular extract from chapter 10 of John speaks more about the pen or enclosure, and Jesus speaks of himself as the gate of the pen. The proper way in or out is through him.

In early Christian catacomb art in Rome, the image of the shepherd with a sheep slung over his neck was a popular one. It was probably even a pre-Christian image that Christians adopted. Its use in funerary art is easy to explain. The last lines of the psalm say: 'In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever'. The idea of the shepherd leading us into eternity is clear. In chapter 10 of John the idea of eternal life was also found by early Christians. In one of his homilies on this gospel, St Augustine of Hippo noted some sixteen hundred years ago that the gospel says that Jesus leads the sheep in and out through the gate and that he has come to say that people may have life and have it to the full. Augustine could see two realities here. Coming into the gate was baptism and the pen was life in the church. Coming out of the gate was death and entry to the pastures of eternity, and the fullness of life. This is what Augustine said: 'For he seems to me to have meant that they may have life going in, and have it more abundantly going out. For no one can go out through the gate—that is by Christ—to that eternal life which shall be face to face, unless by the same gate—that is, by the same Christ—he has entered his church, which is his fold, to the temporal life, which is lived in faith' (In Euangelium Iohannis Tractatus 45).

So today we are thankful that God has called us to join this flock; we are thankful that, through baptism and the gift of the Spirit, we belong. We are thankful that Jesus is our shepherd who comforts us with crook and staff. We are thankful that the shepherd will one day lead us out into the eternity of the Lord's house. We are thankful to share in this meal of bread and wine, which is a foretaste of the banquet prepared for us in the sight of our foes. 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

<b>Mon</b>	8:30am
<b>Tues-Fri</b>	9:15am
<b>Sat</b>	9.00am, 6pm Vigil
<b>Sun</b>	7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

**Holy Cross Primary School Mass**  
**Tues** 9:15am *during school days*

### Masses for Special Occasions

<b>1st Tues</b>	7.30pm Novena Mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
<b>1st Fri</b>	7.30pm Novena Mass <i>Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>

### Exposition + Benediction

<b>1st Fri</b>	after 9.15am 7.30pm
----------------	---------------------

### Reconciliation

After the weekday masses
<b>Sat</b> after the 9am mass <i>until 10.30am</i>
5:15 - 5:45pm <i>before the Vigil Mass or upon request</i>

### Sacraments

<b>Sun</b>	12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i>
------------	------------------------------------

### Devotions & Prayers

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

### Praise & Worship

<b>Fri</b>	7:30pm Risen Lord Comm
<b>3rd Sat</b>	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 merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

### First Reading

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41*

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 22:1-6*

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

### Second Reading

*A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:20-25*

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*John 10:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10*

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



**The Good Shepherd**



## Special Intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Victor Soosaipillai, Zeena Mendez

### Deceased:

### Anniversary:

Antonietta Bonanno, Consuelo Mangona,  
Angelo Chiouetta, Bartola Cincotta,  
Frank Doyle, Matilda Correya

### 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,  
Florescia 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 in the *SILENCE* of the HEART

God of all loving,

As we seek you with confidence, we wait for  
even our inner contradictions to open to the  
presence of your Holy Spirit.

*Brother Roger of Taizé*

## May Church Calendar

Mon	1	8:30am - Mass
Tues	2	<i>Saint Athanasius (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	3	<i>Saints Philip and James (F)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	4	9:15am - Mass
Fri	5	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - First Friday Novena Mass to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat	6	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	7	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am - Mass 6:00 pm - Mass

## 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

	2	9	16	23	30
May	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
Sep	5	12	19	26	
	Fernandes D	Erasmus B	Barnouti	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](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com) or Melva Paguinto [emcipi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emcipi85@yahoo.com.au). Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.

## 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 parish website.

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

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

or  
scan the QR  
code



*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mahatma Gandhi*  
We are in urgent need for volunteers to assist in the different pastoral ministries in our Parish.



#### ⇒ SRE Teachers

If you could spare an hour during weekdays to spread God's word teaching the scriptures to children, **WE NEED YOU**. We currently have 4 public primary schools and a high school in our parish where we hold scripture classes during school hours for 30 minutes during Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For more information call Asoki 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814. Training and resources will be provided.

#### ⇒ SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FACILITATORS

We require assistance at the children's baptismal rites during Sundays 12pm. For interested parties please contact the Parish Office on 8883 5981.

#### ⇒ GARDENERS AND CLEANERS

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

For more information contact [maintenance@john23rd.org.au](mailto:maintenance@john23rd.org.au) or the parish office.

#### Formation and Training for Ministers at the Altar

We will be having formation and training to parishioners who wishes to serve at the altar in our liturgies and masses. This includes for the:

- **Ministers at the Altar** (a.k.a. Acolytes) who is responsible for the smooth flow of the liturgy celebrations, distribute Holy Communion and (sometimes) read the Scriptures. Open to all men and women age 18 and above, and must be able to secure a Working With Children Check.
- **Ministers of the Word** proclaims the Scriptures and commentate in Liturgies. Open to all men and women age 18 and above.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion** (a.k.a. Eucharistic Ministers) distribute the Holy Communion and is also called to give Holy Communion to the sick and homebound.
- **Junior Servers** assist the celebrant, Deacons and Acolytes in the Liturgy celebrations. Open to all boys and girls from age 10 years old, and must have received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and (preferably) Confirmation.

The schedules will be conducted in the church as follows:

1. Introduction to Liturgy Ministry at 7-9pm on Wed, 10th May
2. Practical Training on how to serve for your Ministry from 7-9pm on Fri, 26th May, and
3. Commissioning is during the 10.30am Pentecost Sunday mass on 28th May.

Please contact the following to register your interest or for additional information:

- Bob Agbulos on [bragbulos@gmail.com](mailto:bragbulos@gmail.com), 0422106525 or
- Wira Peiris on [wira.peiris@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wira.peiris@yahoo.com.au), 0424738484.

#### ⇒ VINNIES VAN

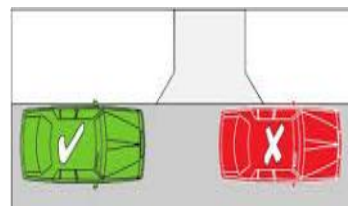
The Vinnies Van provides food, friendship, compassion and dignity to those experiencing homelessness and social isolation in the Mount Druitt and Parramatta areas. To become a volunteer of Vinnies Van you must be 16 years of age and over and available to attend induction training upon commencement.

For more information on joining the SJ23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds at [naomi1.rey@gmail.com](mailto:naomi1.rey@gmail.com)

#### DRIVEWAY/CARPARK SAFETY

**For everyone's safety, please park at least 1.8 meters from the church's driveway curb 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 THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your continued patronage is always very much appreciated. We were able to raise \$1,417.30 for the parish.

If interested to be part of this food loving team please contact Madeline Huang on [cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com)





January 18, 2018

by Alvin Peña

When Christians pray for nine days for a special occasion or intention they are participating in novena prayers. The first novena ever prayed occurred immediately after Jesus ascended to heaven. The Sacred Scriptures tell us, "When they entered the city [of Jerusalem] they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." (Acts 1:13-14)

The Apostles and other disciples gathered in the upper room together with Mother Mary and prayed for the descent of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised. For nine days, they prayerfully gathered until the feast of Pentecost. Certainly, this must have been a powerful nine-day experience as many present-day novenas are. Novena prayers also offer us some extra good news. In addition to obtaining a particular favor by praying a novena, there are five benefits of doing novena prayers that we gain and that I would like to share with you.

## 1. Gift of Hope...

Our decision to pray a novena is often the result of an urgent impulse of our soul, which longs for God's presence and intervention in our lives. This longing develops into a hope that convinces us that the Almighty God will favor us with His divine assistance. Truly, the words of the psalmist describe this growing hope within the person praying: "Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!" (Ps. 27:14). When we pray a novena, we grow in the virtue of hope because we learn to "wait for the Lord" in prayer. Certainly, we can appropriate the beautiful words of hope found in Psalm 130 (vs 5-7), "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits and I hope for his word. My soul looks for the Lord more than sentinels for daybreak. More than sentinels for daybreak, let Israel hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is mercy, with him is plenteous redemption..."

## 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 either of the following:

**Helen Festejo**

E: helen.festejo@gmail.com

Ph: 0401 671 665

**Taylor Coutinho**

E: taylor.coutinho1999@gmail.com

Ph: 0426 382 537

## 2. Gift of Prioritization...

Taking up a novena can sometimes help us learn to put things in life in their correct order. We are reminded that our relationship with God takes precedence over other people, situations, activities and things that occupy our time and energy. Our Savior says, "Seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." (Mt 6:33) A novena can help us understand that we must make time for God and prayer with Him. When we place God first in our lives, schedule several moments of prayer throughout the day, and regularly visit His House (i.e. church on Sundays and holy days of obligation), everything else falls into place sooner or later.

## 3. Gift of Commitment...

Novenas cannot be prayed without a willingness to engage in prayer until the end. When we start a novena, we are making a solemn promise or agreement to pray for nine days for a particular intention. This process requires commitment. Certainly, we are living at a time in which there is a deep crisis when it comes to commitment. Novenas can potentially teach us the importance of commitment – to God, to prayer, to work and to service.

## 4. Gift of Perseverance...

An exhortation from the book of Ephesians offers a glimpse of the importance of perseverance: "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones." (verse 18) Saint Paul encouraged the Ephesians to live praying and begging to God at all times. When this is done at every opportunity in the Spirit, the Christian is persevering in prayer. Hence, novenas can potentially instruct us in the art of persevering in prayer and Christian discipleship until the end.

## 5. Gift of Devotion...

Father John A. Hardon, S.J. defined devotion as "the disposition of [the] will to do promptly what concerns the worship and service of God... Essential to devotion is readiness to do whatever gives honor to God, whether in public or private prayer (worship) or in doing the will of God (service)." (Pocket Catholic Dictionary – Abridged Edition of Modern Catholic Dictionary) Novena prayers have been known to increase devotion among the faithful. Furthermore, praying a powerful novena can transform our faith and prayer life so profoundly that our primary task gradually becomes glorifying God wholeheartedly whenever we pray or serve. A preference for God's will and things saturates the heart of the Christian that develops this virtue of devotion through the regular rhythm of novena prayers.

<https://catholicismfelt.com/felt-main-page/5-hidden-benefits-of-doing-novena-prayers/>

## NOVENA MASSES

We invite you to join this coming week

**first Tuesday 2nd May, 7:30pm**

Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**first Friday 5th May, 7:30pm**

Novena Mass to The Sacred Heart of Jesus



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au)

or visit our FB page

[www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/](https://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/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](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au)

### OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

**Catholic Early Learning Centre**

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

**Holy Cross Primary**

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au)



Check out the yummy goodies that were prepared by our constant contributors for our Cake Angel stall. If you missed out, watch out for our next event on 23rd July 2023.

Again, a big THANK YOU to our parishioners for their unconditional patronage on this endeavour.







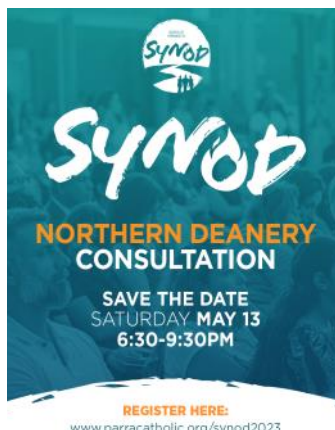
**MET**  
Pastoral Formation



**OFFICE FOR WORSHIP**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



For more events please go to [parracatholic.org/events](http://parracatholic.org/events) or <https://catholicoutlook.org/>



A Synod is both an event and a process where clergy, consecrated and the laity gather to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Synods are transformative events that lead to renewal in the Church's life. Our Synod will gather clergy, religious, and the laity across our Diocese to listen, discern, and respond to the Holy Spirit through voices of the People of God in Western Sydney and The Blue Mountains.

Our Parish of St John 23rd will be hosting the listening session for the Northern Deanery Parishes:

St John 23rd, Stanhope Gardens;  
Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville;  
Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill;  
St Michaels Catholic Church, Baulkham Hills;  
St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill;  
St Paul the Apostle, Winston Hills;  
Christ the King Parish, North Rocks; and  
St Madeleine's Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst.

The fundamental question that will guide the journey towards the Synod is:

**In what ways can we respond to the call of the Holy Spirit to be a more synodal Church in the Diocese of Parramatta?**

All parishioners from the different parishes are invited to attend and participate. Refreshments will be provided.

**Date:** 13th May, Saturday

**Time:** 6:30 - 9:30pm

**Venue:** St John XXIII Performance Hub,  
160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768



### 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](mailto:jolly@john23rd.org.au)

📞 0417 541 637 (for emergency only)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

✉ [Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au](mailto:Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au)

### STAFF

#### Secretary:

Tanya Gatt

✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

#### Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)

#### Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

✉ [sacramental@john23rd.org.au](mailto:sacramental@john23rd.org.au)

#### Operations Manager:

Daphney Fernandes

✉ [operations@john23rd.org.au](mailto:operations@john23rd.org.au)

### OTHER CONTACTS

Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ [maintenance@john23rd.org.au](mailto:maintenance@john23rd.org.au)

Columbarium queries:

Daphney Fernandes

✉ [columbarium@john23rd.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish)

### COELIACS

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

### 'On Our Knees' Booklet

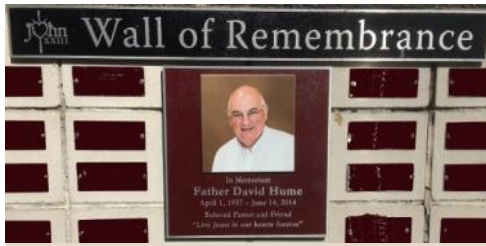
May 2023 issue now out

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.





### 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](mailto:columbarium@john23rd.org.au)

The plaques cost \$400.00



### Are you looking for a family doctor?

- Long established accredited General Practice in Quakers Hill
- Multi Doctor practice with Christian values at the core
- In-house Allied health and Dental clinic

*Books are now open for new patients*

**Tel – 02 9626 6300**

**[www.qhfp.com.au](http://www.qhfp.com.au)**

### 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](mailto: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.**

A member of your church who believes in the power of giving back, mention this advert and if John sells your home he will make a donation directly to the Church.

**0433 969 731**

[johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au](mailto:johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au)

McGrath Northwest

**McGrath**

### ADVERTISE HERE



### Members

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.



Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm



### PRAISE AND WORSHIP

3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm  
*SJ23rd Prayer Group*