



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.

Today, on our thirty-sixth day of the Easter season, our attention shifts from the risen Lord to the promised Spirit. We are thankful today because we are people of hope. What is the basis of that hope? One of the grounds for our hope is the fact that all the earth can cry out to God with joy. The purpose of Acts of the Apostles is to show that the good news brought by Jesus is not limited or restricted in any way: it does not belong to one people but to all people. The author outlines how the gospel reaches to the ends of the earth.

We hear about the first step in that expansionary process in chapter 8 of Acts. We met Philip last week, like Stephen, one of the seven chosen to help with the distribution of food to the widows among the Hellenists in the Jerusalem community. These Hellenists were Greek-speaking Christian Jews who seem to have been discriminated against on cultural grounds. The ministry of service exercised by the seven would later be seen as the basis for the ministerial order of deacons. Philip is to be distinguished from Philip who was one of the Twelve. Interestingly, while chapter 6 of Acts presents the seven being chosen so that the Twelve could devote themselves to preaching, here in chapter 8 we find Philip also engaged in preaching.

He is in Samaria. We know that, after the death of Solomon, according to the biblical accounts, the kingdom had been split into two: the kingdom of Israel in the north and the kingdom of Judah in the south. Two hundred years later (720 BC), the Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom and some of the people were taken away in captivity. The land later became known as Samaria and the people living there regarded as foreigners, even though they worshipped the same God as the Jews.

Philip baptised, but the author of Acts says that the people did not receive the Spirit until Peter and John laid hands on them. This is a little odd, since elsewhere we are told that baptism conferred the Spirit. It seems that what the author wanted to emphasize is that Philip's practice of taking the Good News outside the borders of Judaea was confirmed by the Twelve. It is a statement about the unity of the followers of Jesus, whatever their background. This piece of Scripture would become the later justification for the separation of baptism and confirmation in our western tradition.

What happens to the person who receives the Spirit? John's Gospel, recounting the words of Jesus in the discourse at the Last Supper, says that such a one is united in truth and united in Christ. The indwelling of the Spirit is the indwelling of the Trinity and the unity of the community. To have the Spirit is to be driven towards unity; it is to be impelled towards care for others, all others. In the fifth century, Augustine told the newly baptised what it meant for them to be filled with the Spirit in loving God and keeping God's commandments. "Thus, before all else, Christ came so that they might learn how much God loves them, and might learn this so that they would catch fire with love for him who first loved them, and so that they would also love their neighbour as he commanded and showed by his example—he who made himself their neighbour by loving them when they were not close to him but were wandering far from him." [Footnote: De catechizandis rudibus 4.8. The excerpts from Augustine's De catechizandis rudibus come from Augustine, *Instructing Beginners in Faith*, trans. Raymond Canning (Hyde Park, NY: New City, 2006).] Let us give thanks to the Lord for that Spirit who makes us one. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.

Geoffrey D Dunn



Proverbs 31:25-30

*She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful
instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her
household and does not eat the bread of
idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
"Many women do noble things, but you
surpass them all."
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is
fleeting; but a woman who fears the
Lord is to be praised.*

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
Thurs 9:15am during school days

Masses for Special Occasions

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

Exposition + Benediction

1st Fri after 9.15am 7.30pm

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

Sun 12pm Baptism by appointment

Devotions & Prayers

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

Praise & Worship

Fri 7.30pm Risen Lord Comm
3rd Sat 7.30pm SJ23rd Prayer Grp

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Catholic Parish of St John XXIII and the Diocese of Parramatta sits, the land of the Darug and Gundungurra people. We would like to pay our respects to the Aboriginal Elders past, present and future for they hold the traditions, memories and wisdom of Mother Earth on which we place our feet upon today.

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

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!' Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 4:13-16

It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ.

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:15-21

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave your orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

The Holy Spirit Our Helper



Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Marija Piplica, Salim Makari, John Ferguson, Philomena Tait, Alphonse

Deceased:

Anniversary:

Sr Lucy Chazhoor

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, 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, Mario Matias, Jennifer Estrada, Roland, Michael, Rosario, Maryanne Jaramillo, Cindy Dadvias, Zoey Illic, Christina Properzi, Emma Matoza, Valeria Laureta, Jenat Perera, Raymond Lanzona, Peter Dawson, Liv Toole, Manuel Sarris, Phyllis Chilla Deidre Thomson, Michelle Infante, Adrian Gould, Jerry Bondoc, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Barbara Thompson, Elizabeth Candame, Anshu Mala Nand, Florentina Elisura, Rhonda & Damian, Perla Magculang, Virginia Santos, Josephine Daly, Jonathan Gemin

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

	2	9	16	23	30
May	Vernon	Paguinto	Erasmus B	Sebastian	Tina B
Jun	Shalini	Cayas	Richards	Barnouti	
Jul	D'Souza	Ring	Vernon	Jacob	
Aug	Lozada	Meena B	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	Jacob
Sep	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 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

Merciful God,
in the footsteps of the apostles and of the Virgin Mary, you are preparing us to abandon ourselves in you, in trust and in love.

Brother Roger of Taizé

Alpha at St John XIII

Are you looking to connect with others from the parish?

Have you got questions about life and faith?

Want to deepen your spirituality?
Or want to know more about the Alpha Program?

Contact Mei Velasco via phone 0410 040 434 or email mei.donnie.velasco@gmail.com



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

May Church Calendar

Mon	15	8:30am - Mass
Tues	16	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	17	9:15am - Mass
Thurs	18	9:15am - Mass
Fri	19	9:15am - Mass 12:00pm - Young at Hearts lunch
Sat	20	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	21	7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am - Mass 6:00 pm - Mass

Paying our debt together

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

FIRST COLLECTION goes to support the priests and deacons of the Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION provides for the running costs of the church and ministry expenses; it also goes to pay off our church mortgage.

A **Planned giving Program** is in place to help us with the planning /budgeting for the church expenses. To register, an **SJ23rd form** is available at the church foyer or from the website.

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

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

or
scan the QR
code



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



⇒ SRE Teachers

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

⇒ SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FACILITATORS

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

⇒ GARDENERS AND CLEANERS

Now that the church is open for celebrations, its floors need to be swept of dust, cobwebs brushed off, candle stands cleaned and garden kept green. We would like to request all our volunteer cleaners and gardeners to come back and continue their ministry. For more information contact maintenance@john23rd.org.au or the parish office.

⇒ VINNIES VAN

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

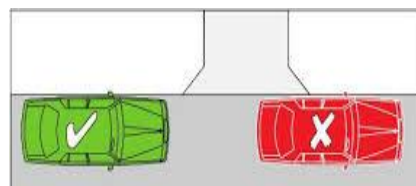
For more information on joining the SJ23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds at naomi1.rey@gmail.com

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.

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, 0422106525 or
- Wira Peiris on wira.peiris@yahoo.com.au, 0424738484.

MAY – Month of Mary our Blessed Mother

“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. We encourage children to participate and be the living rosary.

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



The word rosary comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize the Virgin Mary. If you were to ask what object is most emblematic of Catholics, people would probably say, “The rosary, of course.”

After Vatican II the rosary fell into relative disuse. The same is true for Marian devotions as a whole. But in recent years the rosary has made a comeback, and not just among Catholics. Many Protestants now say the rosary, recognizing it as a truly biblical form of prayer—after all, the prayers that compose it come mainly from the Bible.

The rosary is a devotion in honor of the Virgin Mary. It consists of a set number of specific prayers. First are the introductory prayers: one Apostles’ Creed (Credo), one Our Father (the Pater Noster or the Lord’s Prayer), three Hail Mary’s (Ave’s), one Glory Be (Gloria Patri).

The Apostles’ Creed

The Apostles’ Creed is so called not because it was composed by the apostles themselves, but because it expresses their teachings. The original form of the creed came into use around A.D. 125, and the present form dates from the 400s. It reads this way:

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.”

Traditional Protestants are able to recite the Apostles’ Creed without qualms, though to some lines they must give meanings different from those given by Catholics, who composed the creed. For instance, we refer to “the holy Catholic Church,” meaning a particular, identifiable Church on earth. Protestants typically reinterpret this to refer to an “invisible church” consisting of all “true believers” in Jesus. This is despite the fact that the term “Catholic” was already used to refer to a particular, visible Church by the second century and had already lost its broader meaning of “universal.”

The Lord’s Prayer

The next prayer in the rosary—the Our Father or Pater Noster (from its opening words in Latin), also known as the Lord’s Prayer—is even more acceptable to Protestants because Jesus himself taught it to his disciples.

It is given in the Bible in two slightly different versions (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4). The one given in Matthew is the one all Christians say.

The Hail Mary The next prayer in the rosary, and the one that is really at the center of the devotion, is the Hail Mary. Since the Hail Mary is a prayer to Mary, many Protestants assume it’s unbiblical. Quite the contrary—let’s look at it.

The prayer begins, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.” This is nothing other than the greeting the angel Gabriel gave Mary in Luke 1:28 (Confraternity Version). The next part reads this way:

“Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.” This was exactly what Mary’s cousin Elizabeth said to her in Luke 1:42. The only thing that has been added to these two verses are the names “Jesus” and “Mary,” to make clear who is being referred to. So the first part of the Hail Mary is entirely biblical.

The second part of the Hail Mary is not taken straight from Scripture, but it is entirely biblical in the thoughts it expresses. It reads:

“Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

Some Protestants do object to saying “Holy Mary” because they claim Mary was a sinner like the rest of us. But Mary was a Christian (the first Christian, actually, the first to accept Jesus; see

Luke 1:45), and the Bible describes Christians in general as holy. In fact, they are called saints, which means “holy ones” (Eph. 1:1, Phil. 1:1, Col. 1:2). Furthermore, as the mother of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, Mary was certainly a very holy woman.

Some Protestants also object to the title “Mother of God,” but the title doesn’t mean Mary is older than God; it means the person who was born of her was a divine person, not a human person. (Jesus is one person, the divine, but has two natures, the divine and the human.) The denial that Mary had God in her womb is a heresy known as Nestorianism (which claims that Jesus was two persons, one divine and one human), which has been condemned since the early 400s and which the Reformers and Protestant Bible scholars have always rejected.

Another Mediator?

The most problematic line for non-Catholics is usually the last: “pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.” Many non-Catholics think such a request denies the teaching of 1 Timothy 2:5: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” But in the preceding four verses (1 Tim. 2:1-4), Paul instructs Christians to pray for each other, meaning it cannot interfere with Christ’s mediatorship: “I urge that prayers, supplications, petitions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone. . . . This is good, and pleasing to God our Savior.”

We know this exhortation to pray for others applies to the saints in heaven who, as Revelation 5:8 reveals, intercede for us by offering our prayers to God: “The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”

The Glory Be

The fourth prayer found in the rosary is the Glory Be, sometimes called the Gloria or Gloria Patri. The last two names are taken from the opening words of the Latin version of the prayer, which in English reads:

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

The Gloria is a brief hymn of praise in which all Christians can join. It has been used since the fourth century (though its present form is from the seventh) and traditionally has been recited at the end of each Psalm in the Divine Office.

The Closing Prayer

We’ve covered all the prayers of the rosary except the very last one, which is usually the Hail Queen (Salve Regina), sometimes called the Hail Holy Queen. It’s the most commonly recited prayer in praise of Mary after the Hail Mary itself, and was composed at the end of the eleventh century. It generally reads like this (there are several variants):

“Hail holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.”

So those are the prayers of the rosary. Between the introductory prayers and the concluding prayer is the meat of the rosary: the decades. Each decade—there are fifteen in a full rosary (which takes about forty-five minutes to say)—is composed of ten Hail Marys. Each decade is bracketed between an Our Father and a Glory Be, so each decade actually has twelve prayers.

Each decade is devoted to a mystery regarding the life of Jesus or his mother. Here the word mystery refers to a truth of the faith, not to something incomprehensible. The fifteen mysteries are divided into three groups of five: the Joyful, the Sorrowful, the Glorious. When people speak of “saying the rosary” they usually mean saying any set of five (which takes about fifteen minutes) rather than the recitation of all fifteen mysteries. Let’s look at the mysteries.

YOUTH MINISTRY

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

Blaze is a youth group, Yrs 4 - 12, with the mission of creating a space for teens to learn, grow, serve and live out our Catholic faith. We facilitate the understanding and growth of our faith through various activities exploring the catholic perspective on a variety of themes such as social issues, teen challenges and faith-related topic.

Join us for a fun night filled with music, games, discussion, prayer and of course pizza. BLAZE youth session runs from 7:15 to 9pm and is held every second Friday throughout the school term in the St John XXIII school hall.

If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at blaze@john23rd.org.au

Youth Coordinator	Asst Youth Coordinator	Youth Leaders	
Amanda Lee 0413 545 318	Caitlin Green 0425 579 594	Anna Todhunter Taylor Coutinho Natasha Surjanto	Charlotte Todhunter Johnathan Soosaipillai



For all youth ministry enquiries,

✉ blaze@john23rd.org.au

or visit our FB page

www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/



BLAZE REGISTRATION FORM

COME AND JOIN

MORE YOUTH GROUPS

CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)
YOUTH LEADERS

Rojith de Silva 0405 9563210
Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009

YFC (*Youth for Christ*)
YOUTH LEADERS

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

WYD Appeal - Blaze Youth

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO OUR ENDEAVOURS



We will continue to try and raise funds every by hosting various events to support the participating youths of our wonderful church. If you'd like to make a contribution towards our goal, you can go to the Parish's BPoint account site and caption your donation as "YOUTH - WYD DONATION".

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIPGSG>

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

✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au

St John XXIII Catholic College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au

Bleiburg: Massacre of the Croatian People 1945

About the book:

This book tells the history of Croatia from its very beginning right up to 1945. In this way, readers would come to realise that the Croatian people are an ancient people who inhabited the region between the Drava River and the Adriatic Sea from the seventh century onwards. The book then deals with the creation of the Independent State of Croatia during the Second World War. Mention is also made of the suffering of the Slovene, German and Montenegrin peoples of the former Yugoslavia. It is good to acknowledge the past with all the horrors of war and learn to forgive the mistakes that were made. It is also important to think of the present time and the future years to come and strive to improve our understanding of other people from different cultures and nations and not carry the hatred into future generations.

Bleiburg: Massacre of the Croatian People 1945



ZVONIMIR GAVRANOVIC

"This is a masterly book that can change lives. Zvonimir Gavranovic has spent a lifetime studying this and meditating on it is wider meaning. His research is impressive, his findings sure and his applications to everyday life is sound. He knows that nurturing hatred for wrongs done in the past is bad for you. Yet if he urges forgiveness, he does not want us to forget our bloody past. It is a nourishing book."

Edmund Campion,

Sydney

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<https://officeforworship.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Liturgical-Ministry-Formation-Enrollment-Form-2023.pdf>

Faith in Marriage Seminar: 19 May

The annual Diocesan Faith in Marriage Seminar returns in 2023 with Chris Padgett, American Speaker, Musician, Author and Professor of Theology. This free event will be held on Friday 19 May at 7:30pm at St Paul the Apostle Church, 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills. Please register your attendance at marriage@parracatholic.org

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website.

For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0419 242435 or Marisa on 0412 280017.



The "Young at Heart" Seniors' group of our parish is at it again. **Lunch at The Fiddler in Rouse Hill at 12.00 Noon on Friday the 19th of May 2023.** Delicious seniors' meal deals and menus can be found on their website. Come and join us.

Please contact Josephine on 0410 589420 or Trevor on 0407 150399 on or before the 12th of May as table reservation is essential.

If you would like to be part of this life loving group, please contact Jo or Trevor.

Meditation the Key

When Catholics recite the twelve prayers that form a decade of the rosary, they meditate on the mystery associated with that decade. If they merely recite the prayers, whether vocally or silently, they're missing the essence of the rosary. Critics, not knowing about the meditation part, imagine the rosary must be boring, uselessly repetitious, and meaningless. Christ forbade meaningless repetition (Matt. 6:7), but the Bible itself prescribes some prayers that involve repetition. Look at Psalms 136, which is a litany (a prayer with a recurring refrain) meant to be sung in the Jewish Temple. In the psalm the refrain is "His mercy endures forever." Sometimes in Psalms 136 the refrain starts before a sentence is finished, meaning it is more repetitious than the rosary, though this prayer was written directly under the inspiration of God.

It is the meditation on the mysteries that gives the rosary its staying power. *The Joyful Mysteries are these: the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), the Visitation (Luke 1:40-56), the Nativity (Luke 2:6-20), the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:21-39), and the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-51).*

Then come the *Sorrowful Mysteries: the Agony in the Garden (Matt. 26:36-46), the Scourging (Matt. 27:26), the Crowning with Thorns (Matt. 27:29), the Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17), and the Crucifixion (Luke 23:33-46).*

The final Mysteries are the *Glorious: the Resurrection (Luke 24:1-12), the Ascension (Luke 24:50-51), the Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), the Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Rev. 12), and her Coronation (cf. Rev. 12:1).*

With the exception of the last two, each

mystery is explicitly scriptural. True, the Assumption and Coronation of Mary are not explicitly stated in the Bible, but they are not contrary to it, so there is no reason to reject them out of hand.

The Origins of the Rosary It's commonly said that St. Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans), instituted the rosary. Not so. Certain parts of the rosary predated Dominic; others arose only after his death.

Centuries before Dominic, monks had begun to recite all 150 psalms on a regular basis. As time went on, it was felt that the lay brothers, known as the conversi, should have some form of prayer of their own. They were distinct from the choir monks, and a chief distinction was that they were illiterate. Since they couldn't read the psalms, they couldn't recite them with the monks. They needed an easily remembered prayer.

The prayer first chosen was the Our Father and depending on circumstances, it was said either fifty or a hundred times. These conversi used rosaries to keep count and the rosaries were known then as Paternosters ("Our Fathers").

The rosaries that originally were used to count Our Fathers came to be used, during the twelfth century, to count Hail Marys—or, more properly, the first half of what we now call the Hail Mary. (The second half was added some time later.)

Both Catholics and non-Catholics, as they learn more about the rosary and make more frequent use of it, come to see how its meditations bring to mind the sweet fragrance not only of the Mother of God, but of Christ himself.

<https://www.catholic.com/tract/the-rosary>

CONTACTS

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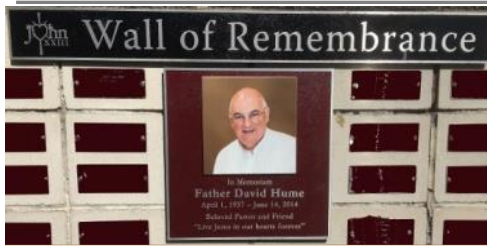
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Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion with a gluten low host. Please inform the acolyte before Mass.



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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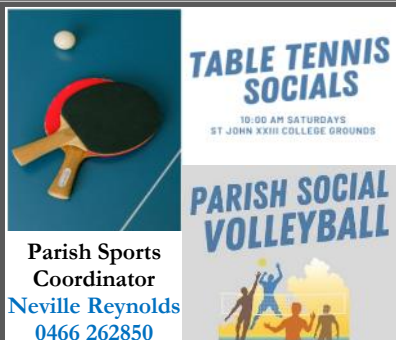
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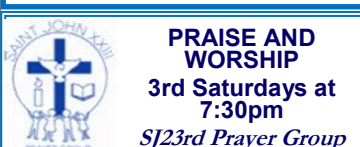
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Bing Catabas

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Nanette Gamboa
Gary Lee



Parish Sports Coordinator
Neville Reynolds
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.



Want to know more?

Contact Mei Velasco via phone 0410 040 434 or email

mei.donnie.velasco@gmail.com



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.