



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.

Only Luke separates out resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit over a fifty-day period. The clear implication in John's Gospel is that the Spirit is given on the day of the resurrection and that the ascension has occurred around the same time since, one week later, Jesus invites Thomas to touch him—something that Mary of Magdala had been forbidden one week earlier because the ascension had not yet occurred. In essence they are all different dimensions of the one reality, and the church, in following Luke's chronology, allows us to reflect on this one reality over fifty days in all its richly different aspects.

In Matthew's Gospel what is interesting is that we have the account of the women at the tomb (Matt 28:1-10), the account we proclaimed at the Easter Vigil, where the angel tells them not to be afraid and instructs them to tell the disciples of Jesus' having been raised and instructs them to go to Galilee. On the way to tell the disciples, the women see Jesus, who also tells them not to be afraid. The encounter between the women and the disciples is not described, and what we hear from the very last lines of the gospel, which we have just heard, is that the disciples are in Galilee. When Jesus appears some hesitate to recognise him.

We have a homily preached by Leo the Great, bishop of Rome between 440 and 461, on this solemn feast early in his episcopate, in 444. Leo saw the hesitancy of some of the disciples having a spiritual significance. His explanation was that it was for our benefit:

The Spirit of Truth would by no means have permitted this hesitation, wavering in human weakness, to enter the hearts of his preachers, if their trembling anxiety and questioning delay were not to have established the foundations of our faith. Consequently, it was our doubts, our danger, that was being considered in the apostles. We, in the guise of the apostles, were being instructed against the slanders of the wicked and the proofs of earthly wisdom. Their 'seeing' instructed us, their 'hearing' informed us, their 'touching' strengthened us. Let us give thanks for the divine plan and the necessary 'slowness' of the Holy Fathers [the apostles]. They 'doubted' so that we need not doubt. (Sermon 73)

In Matthew's Gospel, the ascension is the moment of the great commissioning. To be a disciple is to be sent into the world to bear witness to the resurrection, to be a messenger of the good news of hope and promise and of the victory of life over death and of love over sin. We hear no more about the fear of the disciples after this. This is the paradox of Christianity: the one who was dead is alive, the one who has gone remains with us, those who fail are forgiven, those who fear are fortified. This is the mystery of faith, this is the hope God's call holds for us. Would that we allow the eyes of our minds to be enlightened by this promise of the rich glories we are to inherit.

These rich glories are beyond our wildest dreams. Leo the Great concluded that the promise of the ascension is not that we shall be restored to the paradise of our first parents, but we shall be raised to the heights of heaven itself and dwell in the very presence of God:

Since the ascension of Christ is our elevation, and since, where the glory of the head has preceded us, there hope for the body is also invited, let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and be glad with a holy thanksgiving. Today we are established not only as possessors of paradise, but we have even penetrated the heights of the heavens in Christ. (Sermon 73)

In our eucharist we are thankful that the Christ who has left us is still present with us in the bread that is his body and the wine that is his blood. We share in this meal that we may share in the triumph of life over death, in the triumph of love over death. 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
Thurs 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

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

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

Deceased:

Yves Fleurot, Rolando Rayeouse

Anniversary:

Sr Lucy Chazhoor

Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Thanksgiving:

Bernadette Virwani

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*

Holy Spirit, enable us to turn toward you at every moment. We so often forget that you are dwelling in us, that you are praying in us, that you are loving in us. Your presence in us is trust and constant forgiveness.

Brother Roger of Taizé

May Church Calendar

Mon	22	8:30am - Mass
Tues	23	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	24	<i>Our Lady Help of Christians (S)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	25	9:15am - Mass
Fri	26	<i>Saint Philip Neri (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Ministers of the Altar practical training
Sat	27	9:15am - Mass 5:00pm - Living Rosary St Mrk's Square 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	28	<i>Pentecost</i> 7:30, 9:00 - Mass 10:30 am - Mass followed by Multicultural celebration 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 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.

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

Alpha will be starting on **Thursday 25th May at 7 - 9pm**

We can't wait to meet you!



Easter Offertory



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

GIVE TO OUR PARISH

Select Stanhope St John 23rd 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.



⇒ 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.

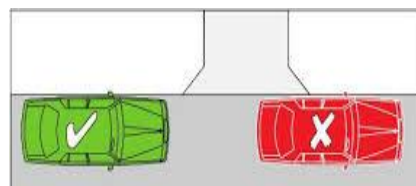
For more information on joining the SJ23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds at naomi1.rey@gmail.com

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



Dr Ray Pritchard

If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It is mentioned in five places in the first five books — in Exodus 23, Exodus 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16.

Pentecost in the Bible

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." (Acts 2:1-13)

What is the Origin of Pentecost?

Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine, there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals, celebrations, or observances that took place before Pentecost. There was Passover, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest. Here's the way you figured out the date of Pentecost.

According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost is the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest.

Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

When Is Pentecost Sunday in 2023?

This year, Pentecost will be on Sunday, May 28th, 2023, observed on the seventh Sunday after Easter (April 9th).

Why Is Pentecost Important to Christianity?

Modern Christians observe Pentecost as a holiday, not to celebrate a wheat harvest, but to remember when the Holy Spirit invaded the Church in Acts 2.

1. On Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and added 3,000 new believers. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2). "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4).

This strange occurrence drew a large crowd, and Peter stood up to speak to them about repentance and the gospel of Christ (Acts 2:14). By the end of the day that the Holy Spirit came, the Church grew by 3,000 people (Acts 2:41). This is why Christians still celebrate Pentecost.

John Gill expresses the significance in his commentary:

"Through this baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, the apostles became more knowing, and had a greater understanding of the mysteries of the Gospel, and were more qualified to preach it to people of all nations and languages."

2. The Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament and promised by Jesus. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in John 14:26, who would be the Helper for his people.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

This New Testament event is also significant because it fulfills an Old Testament prophecy in Joel 2:28-29:

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

The Significance of Pentecost Today

In a [video for Christianity.com](#), Phillip Nation explains why Pentecost is significant for Christians today. Read the transcript of that interview below:

The significance of Pentecost to the church is something that we need to walk through carefully, and we shouldn't ignore, because Pentecost was a Jewish celebration. And so in our modern day of the New Testament church, we don't celebrate Pentecost in the way that the Old Testament Hebrews did.

But Pentecost was the moment in history after Christ had ascended. And he had promised during the gospel narratives, during his earthly ministry, that he would leave, but that he would send the comforter, he would send the holy spirit. And it was at that moment in Pentecost where the spirit came, and he empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles that were left, and Peter, who is almost a comedic personality in the gospel narratives.

He is the one who constantly puts his foot in his mouth, constantly is having to be corrected by Jesus, but is in the inner circle. And because of grace and mercy, he is chosen to be the one who stands up in front of this throng, probably thousands, maybe tens of thousands of people to proclaim the gospel, there in the midst of a Hebrew celebration that was intended to remind the Hebrews of how God had always protected them.

And here Peter stands up and says, "And let me tell you about the Messiah, who is the eternal protection for all of humanity. Let me tell you who he is." And so Pentecost becomes this marker in history to really what many people would say, "And that's the moment that church is born."

That is when thousands come into the faith. And it goes from this little sect of believers who followed a Jewish rabbi from Nazareth who died and rose again, and suddenly the church breaks forth into the culture. Suddenly it is that unstoppable force that no one can really deny any longer. Pentecost has taken on a new significance for us. It, at one point, is just a historical memory. Now it is the living reality of the moment that the spirit of God seemingly burst forth.

3 Historical Insights into Pentecost

There are three things you need to know about Pentecost that will help you understand Acts 2.

1. Pentecost was a pilgrim festival. That meant that according to Jewish Law, all the adult Jewish men would come from wherever they were living to Jerusalem and personally be in attendance during this celebration.

2. Pentecost was a holiday. No servile work was to be done. Schools were out. The shops were closed. It was a day to celebrate.

3. There were certain celebrations and sacrifices and offerings which were prescribed in the Law for the day of Pentecost. On Pentecost, the High Priest was to take two loaves of freshly baked wheat bread and offer them before the Lord. The wheat bread was made from newly harvested wheat.

In short, Pentecost in the time of the Apostles was a great and grand harvest celebration. The streets of Jerusalem were clogged with thousands of pilgrims who had come from every point of the compass to celebrate the goodness of God and the bringing in of the wheat harvest.

<https://www.christianity.com/jesus/early-church-history/pentecost/where-did-pentecost-come-from.html>

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

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

Books will be \$50.

If you are interested to please call the Parish Office on 8883 5981.

Pentecost Celebration



Praise and Worship

Powerful Testimonies

Come, experience the Upper Room and be ignited...

Save the Date

Date: Saturday 27th May from 2 pm to 5:30 pm

Venue: Servants of Jesus, 15 Park Road, Seven Hills, NSW 2147

Hosted by CCR NSW and CCR Parramatta

Enquiries: email@ccrnsw.org.au

Scan to Register



CCR NSW

CCR Parramatta



MET
Pastoral Formation



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

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

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>

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.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Mother's Day Flower Stall.

We raised \$535 which will go to the church's coffers.

Again, thank you for your never ending support.



Multicultural Celebration for Pentecost

We will celebrate Pentecost with a multicultural affair after the 10:30am Sunday Mass on the 28th May.

We would like to invite parishioners to come in their cultural costumes, young and old alike. As always, we will have a food fiesta and so please bring a platter/s for sharing.

Gather as a group and make your delicious dishes or sweet treats together; Filipino, Indonesian, Indian, Vietnamese, Spanish, Italian etc. Remember to label the food and maybe provide the recipes so that others can learn and enjoy to cook them.

For food coordination please contact Techie - 0438 201436, Nanette - 0404 465600

Let us make this another memorable event and celebrate.

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

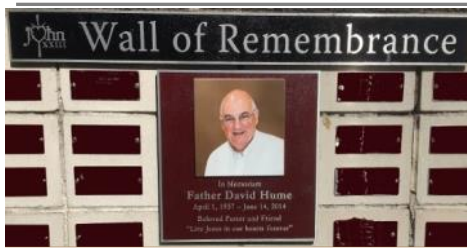
COELIACS

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

If you would like to advertise your business please contact the parish office.

St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the

service provided by an advertiser does not meet



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



Active Kids' vouchers are accepted.

Training at Blacktown Leisure Centre and Dural Recreation Centre.

info@royalsbasketball.com.au

www.royalsbasketball.com.au

SERVICE OFFERING

Progressive Level Training
Introduction to structured game plays and drills training.

Royals MVP
Master the foundations of the game skills training.

3X3 Hustle League
10-week league designed to provide grass roots level development and understanding of the half court game.

Join our club team
Local competition played at Hills Basketball

CONDITIONING | COACHING | SPORTS CLUB | 3x3 HUSTLE LICENSEE

ROYALS BASKETBALL ADMIN: BOB TON ROAD | ROYALS BASKETBALL PTY LTD ACN 607 983140



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Are you looking for a family doctor?

- Long established accredited General Practice in Quakers Hill
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Books are now open for new patients

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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.

ADVERTISE HERE



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.

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Julienne Crasto
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Chris Drummond
Margaret Harrison
Nanette Gamboa
Gary Lee



**TABLE TENNIS
SOCIALS**

10:00 AM SATURDAYS
ST JOHN XXIII COLLEGE GROUNDS

**PARISH SOCIAL
VOLLEYBALL**



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.



Join and be part of the
Cake Angels
contact Madeline Huang
cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com



Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm



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



**Young at Hearts
Seniors Group**
Contact Frank Coleiro
on 0459 504 625



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.