



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.

One of my philosophy professors told me there were two sets of alternatives at the heart of philosophy, which is another way of saying that there are two fundamental choices between two different ways at the heart of understanding life. The years have proven, at least as far as I am concerned, just how insightful this observation was. The two sets of alternatives are one and many, and being and flux. The solemn feast of Pentecost, the last day of our Easter season, gives us the opportunity to reflect on the first set: one and many. When we look out at the world, are we the kind of persons who see what we have in common with others and see what unites us, or are we the kind of persons who first notice the differences between us and other people: either our gender, or our skin colour, or our language, or our religion, or our social status, or our nationality, or our education, or our occupation? There are so many things that make us different from one another that it is a rare person who is able to focus on what makes us one.

Yet, it is our Christian vocation, given to each of us in baptism, to be people of oneness and unity. Being one is a key concept in John's Gospel, as we see in the great prayer of Jesus, which we find inserted into the Last Supper narrative. That unity is brought about by the Spirit. In John's Gospel the giving of the Spirit to the disciples occurs not at Pentecost, as we hear in Acts of the Apostles, but on the evening of Easter Sunday itself. While the various texts of the New Testament may not agree on their chronology, they do agree on the important point about the significance and purpose of the Spirit being given.

Augustine of Hippo expressed this significance well in one of his homilies preached to his congregation in the early years of the fifth century about how the disunity symbolised by the tower of Babel was reversed by the conferring of the Spirit:

At Pentecost, by contrast, the humble piety of believers brought all these diverse languages into the unity of the church. What discord had scattered, love was to gather together. Like the limbs of a single body, the separated members of the human race would be restored to unity by being joined to Christ, their common head, and welded into the oneness of a holy body by the fire of love. Anyone therefore who rejects the gift of peace and withdraws from the fellowship of this unity cuts himself off from the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Sermo 271) [Footnote: The excerpts from the translations of Augustine's sermons that appear in these reflections come from Augustine, Sermons, trans. Edmund Hill, 11 vols in The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century series (New York: New City Press, and Augustinian Heritage Institute, 1991-1997).]

Acts of the Apostles shows us how the earliest Christians attempted to live this unity: it was a unity in diversity, not a unity based on uniformity. Theirs was a unity based on a common experience of the love, forgiveness, and peace of Jesus. In a fractured world, we, as Christian people, must be living beacons of unity. We know we have the Spirit when our actions lead to reconciliation, not division; when they lead to understanding, not anger; when they lead to hope, not despair. We are thankful today for the gift of the Spirit, who inflames our hearts and makes us one.

*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**  
**Thurs** 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
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### Reconciliation

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

### Sacraments

<b>Sun</b>	12pm Baptism by appointment
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### 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 Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

### First Reading

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11*

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34*

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches. **R.**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works! May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

### Second Reading

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13*

*In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.*

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

*Seq Accl*

### Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, From the clear celestial height Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, Come with treasures which endure Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful guest, Dost refreshing peace bestow

Thou in toil art comfort sweet Pleasant coolness in the heat Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, Visit thou these hearts of thine, And our inmost being fill: If thou take thy grace away, Nothing pure in man will stay All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew On our dryness pour thy dew Wash the stains of guilt away: Bend the stubborn heart and will Melt the frozen, warm the chill Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore Thee confess and thee adore, With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die Give us life with thee on high Give us joys that never end.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23*

*As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.*

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Communion Antiphon

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.



## Special Intentions

### Recently Deceased:

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

### Deceased:

Zeena Mendez, Josefina Sarlabus

### Anniversary:

### Sick: Names published with permission.

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

Holy Spirit, filling the universe, as a breath of silence you tell each of us:

"Be afraid of nothing. Deep within you is the presence of God; seek, and you will find."

Brother Roger of Taizé

### May Church Calendar

Mon	29	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church 8:30am - Mass
Tues	30	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	31	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (F) 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	1	Saint Justin (M) 9:15am - Mass
Fri	2	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Ministers of the Altar practical training
Sat	3	Saints Charles Lwanga and companions (M) 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	4	The Most Holy Trinity 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

May	2	9	16	23	30
	Vernon	Paguinto	Erasmus B	Sebastian	Tina B
Jun	6	13	20	27	
	Shalini	Cayas	Richards	Barnouti	
Jul	4	11	18	25	
	D'Souza	Ring	Vernon	Jacob	
Aug	1	8	15	22	29
	Lozada	Meena B	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	Jacob
Sep	5	12	19	26	
	Fernandes D	Erasmus B	Barnouti	Jacob	

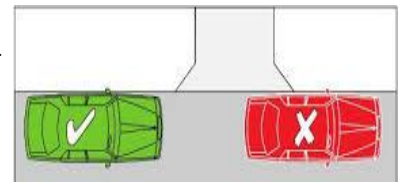
"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"

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.

### 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.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:naomi1.rey@gmail.com)

### Prayer for Pentecost

#### Unpredictable

Father, teach me to release control  
 You hold the compass, I'll hold your hand  
 Teach me to dance 'neath your shadow  
 May my stubborn feet stand where you stand

Father, help me unlearn gravity  
 May falling upwards be the new law  
 Take me to fresh pastures, new territory  
 A life not of fear but of wonder and awe

Father, make me like clay, soft and yielding  
 You be the potter, and I your art  
 And make me anything and everything within the holy  
 of your heart

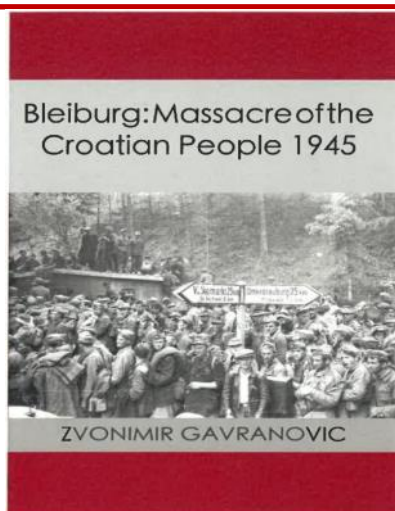
Father, help me be a lamb, blind and meek  
 Take this stuff that was never meant for me  
 Give me instead, eyes to see you lead and feet that  
 follow and refuse to flee

Father, teach me to be familiar with the strange  
 uncomfortable  
 To not think twice, when you 'come here'  
 To abide, even in the unpredictable.

Spirit, take me with you, wherever whenever  
 You state the mission, You pick the nation  
 Mapless and aloft, I'll say yes to adventure  
 An unknown destination, but an open invitation

Spirit move, Spirit breathe and in your breath, may I be  
 whisked into His presence, please  
 All through this life and even after death  
 May I blow as you do, ever wild, ever free.

*by Prashana*



#### 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.

*"This is a masterly book that can change lives. Zvonimir Gavranovic has spent a lifetime studying this and meditating on its 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

Book is \$50.

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

#### 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](mailto:mei.donnie.velasco@gmail.com)

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

We can't wait to meet you!



On Pentecost, Jesus established a Church and a mission for the apostles. But they're not just for the apostles. They're for all of us, too.

TOM NASH

Having celebrated the Solemnity of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit to empower Jesus' apostles to fulfill their divine mandate, we should continue rejoicing, because God makes biblically clear on this feast that he established the Church to restore his kingdom as a "catholic" or "universal," worldwide blessing—not simply one confined to the nation of Israel.

During the Last Supper, Jesus prays that his disciples will be one as he and his heavenly Father are one. In addition, we know that God's word—Jesus' prayer, in this case—will not return void. It will be fulfilled (Isa. 55:10-11). Since Jesus has ascended into heaven, what means does he provide for his followers to achieve the unity for which he prayed, for future generations of his disciples to discern who is legitimately leading God's people? Jesus assures his disciples that he will be with us to the end of time, but how is Christ to guide us when we can't see or hear him anymore?

**Jesus reveals his solution at the Last Supper**, indicating that he is establishing his apostles—and presumably their successors—as his divinely ordained leaders to maintain and foster the unity we are called to have in him and his Father. As Old Covenant Israel had twelve tribes in leading God's people, so New Covenant Israel, the Church, would have the leadership of the twelve apostles. The power of reconciliation that Jesus gives them flows from the more fundamental power to teach and govern God's people in general: "As the Father has sent me," Jesus tells them, "even so I send you" (John 20:21).

How did the Father send Jesus? Our Lord makes this abundantly clear before his ascension:

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matt. 28:16-20, emphasis added).*

The Father sent Jesus with full authority on heaven and earth to redeem the world (see John 3:16-17), and so Jesus commissions his apostles to do the same in his name and power, promising that he will remain with and sustain them until he returns again to judge the living and the dead.

What will this worldwide/catholic missionary project look like? We know from the three covenants God made in Genesis that Abraham's descendants will first be a great nation (12:1-3, ch. 15), then an even greater kingdom (ch. 17), and finally a worldwide blessing (ch. 22).

We know that this kingdom will be centered in the person and throne of David and his successors, one of whom would rule God's people forever, as David learned from a prophecy God gave through his friend Nathan:

*When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever (2 Sam. 7:12-13).*

We know that the Davidic kingdom fell in 586 B.C., and yet more than one prophet proclaimed that it would one day be restored, consistent with God's promise to David (see, e.g., Isa. 11:1-10; Amos 9:11-12).

**On that first Pentecost Sunday**, as recorded in Acts 2, Peter reminds the people of Israel that God swore a covenant oath to David that he would place one of his descendants on his throne (v. 30), a descendant who, unlike David, who died and whose tomb was in their midst in Jerusalem to that very day, would not suffer bodily corruption (vv. 25-29).

The only descendant of David who claims to be a king, and who also rose from the dead, is Jesus Christ—so Peter testifies to his Israelite brethren (Acts 2:30-36; see also Matt. 16:18-19; Luke 1:32-33). And at the subsequent council of Jerusalem, James reaffirms that Jesus has restored the kingdom of David in establishing his Church, whose mission is the evangelization of the whole world (Acts 15:13-18).

In establishing his kingdom, what does Jesus say he will do? He says he will establish it on the apostle Peter, who alone will have "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" in leading Christ's Church (Matt. 16:18-19). To confirm this, he gives Peter a new name, which appears as Cephas several times in the New Testament, (e.g., John. 1:42). This is the Grecized form of the Aramaic word kepha, which undoubtedly means "large rock."

**Jesus' anointing of Peter in the New Covenant Israel** parallels the structure of the Old Covenant Davidic kingdom, which had both a succession of kings and stewards or prime ministers who governed the king's house in the king's name (Isa. 22:15-25). We learn from the prophet Isaiah that this latter position was one of succession, as the righteous Eliakim replaces the corrupt Shebna, signaling that the restored house of David would have a similar office of succession with primacy of authority under the leadership of the king.

And so if Judas had an apostolic successor (Acts 1:12-20), how much more important was it that Peter, the leader of the apostles, have one?

In addition, whereas the Old Covenant Davidic stewards had the key of the house of David (Isa. 22:22), Peter and his successors have the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 16:19), so that they could fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, and not simply the ethnic descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and those who have otherwise joined their Old Covenant religion. And whereas the Old Covenant Davidic steward had the power to bind and loose (open and shut) within the house of David, whatever Peter and his successors bind and loose across the earth will be bound and loosed in heaven itself!

The Old Covenant prime ministers were "fathers to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah" (Isa. 22:21), and Peter and his successors would be father or "popes" to the inhabitants of the New Jerusalem—i.e., the New Covenant Israel/Church (see Gal. 6:14-16).

**To fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus mandates**, an invisible and ambiguously led people of God will not suffice. The countless denominations that have resulted in the 500 years since the Protestant Reformation testify to that event's divisive fruits, antithetical to Jesus' passionate prayer for unity during the Last Supper (John 17:20-23).

This prayer for unity does not guarantee that the Church and popes who safeguard it will be impeccable—without sin. There is, sadly, plenty of evidence over twenty centuries to illustrate the human failings of the Church.

But we are and remain united in the Catholic, universal faith because of what Jesus did 2,000 years ago, has continued to do to the present time, and will continue to do until his Second Coming.

We are and remain Catholic because the Church is a divinely established and divinely sustained salvific project. And so we can confidently echo the words to Jesus that our first pope spoke 2,000 years ago after Christ's preaching on the Eucharist that proved too hard for many of disciples to endure:

*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God (John 6:68-69).*

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/pentecost-and-the-papacy>



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

## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

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

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

**St John XXIII Catholic College**

**YEAR 7 2025**

**OPEN EVENING**

**Thursday 8 June, 2023**

**From 3:45PM**

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au)

SCAN TO REGISTER

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**Sydney ALLIANCE**

**JRS**

**ST JOHN XXIII TABLE TALK**

Table Talk provides an opportunity for people to share their personal stories in a safe and respectful space. Community members are then invited to join in the discussion and explore questions or concerns about the subject.

At this Table Talk, student leaders of St John XXIII invite you to join in the conversation as they discuss the subject of homelessness and asylum seekers.

5:00pm - Refreshments and entertainment  
5:30pm - Framing and orientation  
5:45pm - Table talk begins

**Date**  
Friday 16 June, 2023

**Venue**  
160 Perfection Ave,  
Stanhope Gardens 2768  
(Entry via Secondary Entrance)

SCAN TO REGISTER

**REGISTER NOW**



For more information contact Anthony Matthews  
[amatthews3@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:amatthews3@parra.catholic.edu.au)



**MET**  
Pastoral Formation



**OFFICE FOR WORSHIP**  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

For more events please go to [parracatholic.org/events](https://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](http://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](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0419 242435 or Marisa on 0412 280017.

### Soul Food Podcast – Pastoral Formation

Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others?

Pastoral Formation's Soul Food Podcast features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website or on Spotify: <https://pfparr.org.au/soulfood/>

### Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal available for in-person, virtual appointments

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm for enquiries regarding marriage annulments. Interviews are being conducted in person with Zoom and telephone interviews available for those unable to attend the office. Please contact the Tribunal office on (02)8838 3480 or email [tribunal@parracatholic.org](mailto:tribunal@parracatholic.org)

### Mass available for the Nigerian Catholic Community

The Nigerian Catholic community come together to celebrate Mass every second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11am at Holy Family Church, South Granville, 200 The Trongate, Granville. For more information, please contact community chaplain Fr Chinonye Akamadu on 0451 174438 or [chuk.akamadu@parracatholic.org](mailto:chuk.akamadu@parracatholic.org) or Stella Nwosu on 0405 478472.

### Mass available for the South Sudanese Catholic Community

The South Sudanese Catholic community come together to celebrate Mass every Sunday at 2pm at Mary, Queen of the Family Catholic Parish, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown 2148. For more information, please contact Deacon John Cinya on (02) 9622 1125 or [John.Cinya@parracatholic.org](mailto:John.Cinya@parracatholic.org)

### Safe Parishes Week – Safeguarding Mandatory Training is Due Now!

- Are you new to Parish Ministry this year and have not completed your Safeguarding Training?
- Are you an existing volunteer and have not yet completed your 6 points of mandatory Safeguarding Training?

Under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and the NSW Child Safe Standards **all** volunteers in parish ministry are Mandatory Reporters and are required to have completed their Safeguarding Training. The Office of the Children's Guardian expects all volunteers in parish ministry have now met this Standard. In the Diocese of Parramatta we have a zero tolerance of abuse. We therefore commit to keeping children safe as well as all adults at risk.

You are now required to register for the mandatory 6 points of Safeguarding Training to complete Cycle 1: Register for the Mandatory Training during Safe Parishes Week on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am - 2.30pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Marion Street Blacktown**

Please register for this mandatory training at: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.edu.au](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.edu.au)

If you would like to complete your 6 points online, 'sign up' NOW at <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org).

## 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

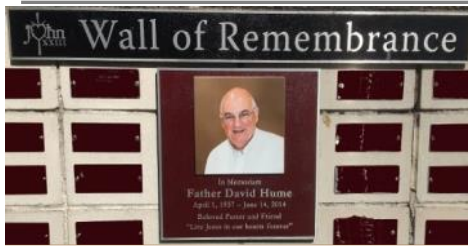
[www.facebook.com/john23rdparish](https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish)

### 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 expectations.*



### 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)**



Active kids' vouchers are accepted.

Training at Blacktown Leisure Centre and Dural Recreation Centre.

[info@roisalsbasketball.com.au](mailto:info@roisalsbasketball.com.au)

[www.roisalsbasketball.com.au](http://www.roisalsbasketball.com.au)

#### SERVICE OFFERING

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

**Roisals 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**

ROISALS BASKETBALL MEMBERSHIP 2018-2019 | ROISALS BASKETBALL PTY LTD ABN 68 780 545

## 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



### 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.

**0433 969 731**

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

**McGrath Northwest**

**McGrath**

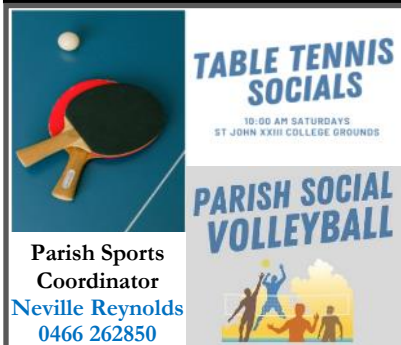
**ADVERTISE HERE**



#### Members

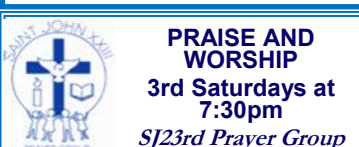
Bernadette Virwani  
Julienne Crasto  
Bing Catabas

Chris Drummond  
Margaret Harrison  
Nanette Gamboa  
Gary Lee



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](mailto: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.