



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.

These days if we want to find out how to get somewhere, we simply type the address into a map app and up will pop directions on how to get there. Often we are given several options about which way to go. Many people view getting to heaven the same way: Catholics go this way, Protestants go that way, the Orthodox go along a third route, Buddhists another, Muslims their own way, but eventually everyone will end up in the same place.

The Gospel of John seems to present some difficulties for holding that view. Jesus is presented as saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'. If he is the way, is he the only way? The next sentence seems to make that clear that he is the only way: 'No one can come to the Father except through me'. This raises the serious question: can non-Christians be saved? If they can be saved apart from through Jesus, then why do we bother with so much missionary work? If they cannot be saved, then God seems unfair in condemning those who have never had the opportunity of hearing about Jesus. These issues have plagued Christianity for centuries.

Just what does it mean to come to the Father through Jesus? Does it mean that one has to have heard of him? Does it mean that one has to belong to his community of disciples, the church? Could it not mean that Jesus saves through a variety of means or through a variety of communities? At the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s the bishops of the Catholic Church taught definitively in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) that salvation is open to non-Christians if they follow the commands of their conscience, where the Spirit communicates with them. The Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio) also taught that non-Catholic Christians can come to salvation because they are members of Christ's body, the church, however imperfectly. Does this mean everyone will be saved, no matter what? The first letter of Peter tells us that those who reject Jesus, the living stone, will stumble and fall because they do not believe. So it is still possible to reject God and reject Jesus as the way, but we should not automatically think that everyone who is not baptised has therefore explicitly rejected Jesus.

It is possible to believe that salvation is only through Jesus and to believe that Jesus can offer that salvation outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church or of Christianity in general. The great Jesuit theologian of the twentieth century, Karl Rahner, described this as anonymous Christianity—a view not without critics of either conservative or liberal inclination. Perhaps Rahner could have found a better term than 'anonymous Christian', for in essence his focus was on the universal love of God made visible through Jesus and communicated through the Spirit without limit. People can only be saved through Jesus, even if they do not know that it is he who is saving them. Once we start dealing with God's will, our ability to know it perfectly is something I would hesitate to assert.

In preaching on this passage of John's Gospel, however, Augustine of Hippo did not dwell on such matters. He was concerned rather with the people in front of him, those who knew Christ and who explicitly followed his way. Augustine's concern is what kind of way it was that Christ calls those of us who are baptised to follow. Augustine said, 'Christ the way is the humble Christ; Christ the truth and the life is Christ exalted and God. If you walk along with the humble Christ, you will arrive at the exalted Christ; if in your sickly health and debility you do not spurn the humble one, you will abide in perfect health and strength with the exalted one' (Sermon 142).

The way of Jesus is the way of the cross, it is the humble way of dying to oneself that others may live, it is the way of turning away from sin and being faithful to the gospel. We thank God for the living stone, who is Jesus; we thank God for ourselves as the living stones forming his body. We thank God that through baptism we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a consecrated nation. In our eucharist now let us sing the praises of God, who has brought us light and life, the truth and way, through Jesus. 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

2nd 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

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

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

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.



Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Marija Piplica, Salim Makari, Francis Anich, Victor Soosaipillai

Deceased:

Baby Julian, Samuel Epondulan, Leopoldo Cuisia

Anniversary:

Erlinda Pangilinan, Erlinda Aure-Menguito

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, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Barbara Thompson, Florentina Elisura, Elizabeth Candame, Anshu Mala Nand, Rhonda & Damian, Perla Magculang, Deidre Thomson, Jonathan Gemin, Virginia Santos, Adrian Gould

Thanksgiving:

Deandra Pragasam

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

Jesus, peace of our hearts,
You call each of us to follow you.
To whom should we go, other than you?
Brother Roger of Taizé

May Church Calendar

Mon	8	8:30am - Mass
Tues	9	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	10	9:15am - Mass
Thurs	11	9:15am - Mass
Fri	12	9:15am - Mass
Sat	13	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass 7:30pm - Synod Assembly (school hub)
Sun	14	<i>Mother's Day</i> 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am - Mass 6:00 pm - Mass

Praying together

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer

Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke your powerful name, the protection of the living and the salvation of the dying. Purest Mary, let your name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, Blessed Lady, to rescue me whenever I call on you. In my temptations, in my needs, I will never cease to call on you, ever repeating your sacred name, Mary, Mary. What a consolation, what sweetness, what confidence fills my soul when I utter your sacred name or even only think of you! I thank the Lord for having given you so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering your name. Let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you Mother of Perpetual Help. Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me and grant me the favour I confidently ask of you. (Then say three Hail Marys).

Novena mass - 7:30pm every First Tuesday

Join us for novena prayers every Tuesday, 7:00pm then pick up our Lady's statue. Roster below.

You may invite either Fr Jolly or Fr Zvonimir to join you in prayers at home.

Please organise with the parish office.



Rosary Statue Family Roster

	2	9	16	23	30
May	Vernon	Paguinto	Erasmus B	Sebastian	Tina B
Jun	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.

Easter Offertory



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

GIVE TO OUR PARISH

Select Stanhope
StJohn23rd Parish

Paying our debt together

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

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

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

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

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

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

or
scan the QR
code



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



⇒ 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.

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.

⇒ 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.

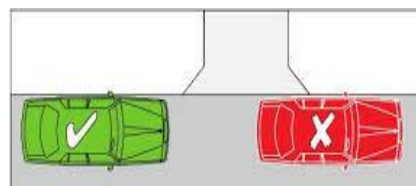
Your parked vehicle must not block the flow of traffic or impair the vision of other drivers getting into or out of the parking lot, basically impeding vehicles from entering, exiting or turning into or from the church's driveway.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

13th May - 6pm Vigil Mass

FLOWER STALL

Proceeds will go to our church funds

'On Our Knees' Booklet May 2023 issue now out

Each booklet is a powerful aid to personal prayer, including personal reflections based on daily liturgical readings.

For anyone desiring to delve deeper into the living Word of God and discover how our Lord speaks to us through it, this is the prayer tool for you.

The booklets are free of charge and will be kept in the church foyer. We pray that this resource blesses you and leads you deeper in your journey with Christ.



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. .

Why is May Mary's Month?

In the Catholic Church the month of May is Mary's month. It's the month we honor Blessed Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Heavenly Mother. If you attended Catholic school, you probably remember taking part in the "May crowning" in the beginning of May—where a wreath of flowers was placed on the head of the statue of Mary as prayers were said. As an older student you understood that this ritual was a way to show our love for Mary.

When you were in pre-school or kindergarten, you probably only remember it as a day you got to be outside! As an adult, have you ever stopped and wondered why May is Mary's month? Why not April or June? With the arrival of May, we thought this is the perfect time to learn how this practice all began and to answer the question: "Why May?"

Why May?

Historians aren't exactly sure why May was chosen to honor Mary, but many believe that May being the month when spring is in full bloom has a lot to do with it. May is the height of spring—gardens everywhere are alive with blooming flowers and trees are filling their branches with leaves. This new beginning and new birth in nature reminds us of the life Mary gave to Jesus. Without Mary giving birth to Jesus, all the events that followed: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection wouldn't have happened. So, it's believed that May (when nature is showing signs of life) is the ideal month to honor the woman who gave life to our Savior.

Ancient Connection

Another belief as to why May was chosen to honor Mary dates back to the ancient Greeks and Romans. In the ancient Greek world, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fertility and life. Roman culture linked the month of May to Flora, the goddess of bloom and blossoms. The Romans celebrated *ludi florales* (floral games) as a preparation for entering into the month of May and to celebrate the beginning of spring. (The month of May was the official beginning of spring in the Roman culture). Over time, the ancient tradition of celebrating life and fertility in the May led Christians to adopt May as the month to honor the Mother of Jesus.

MAY – Month of Mary our Blessed Mother

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

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

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

When Did the Tradition of Honoring Mary in May Begin?

The custom of dedicating the month of May to Mary dates back to the 13th century. But it might come as a surprise to know that it wasn't until the 18th century when this practice became popular. The practice became common among the members of the Jesuit Order in Rome. Because of the far reach of the order's schools, the devotion took hold, and by the 1700's it began to spread worldwide.

Purpose of Crowning Mary

It's a Catholic tradition to honor Mary during the month of May by crowning her statue with flowers. The reason why we crown Mary is best summed up by Pope Paul VI who wrote in 1965 that May is an occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven." The crown symbol is attributed to Mary because she is the Mother of the Son of God, who is our Heavenly King.

How Has Mary Changed Your Life?



<https://www.catholicfaithstore.com/daily-bread/>



What is a Living Rosary?

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

What we need:

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

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

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

Helen Festejo

E: helen.festejo@gmail.com

Ph: 0401 671 665

Taylor Coutinho

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

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 avail of the Parish's BPoint account site <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIPGSG> and caption your donation as "YOUTH - WYD DONATION".

We thank you in advance for your generous support and look forward to the year ahead as we prepare for what will be a life changing and spiritually enriching pilgrimage. If you have any queries you can contact us via email blaze@john23rd.org.au

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.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



ZVONIMIR GAVRANOVIC

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.

"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

Books will be \$50.

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



BLAZE YOUTH PRESENTS

MOTHER'S DAY BAKE SALE

14th May, after 7:30am, 9am and 10:30 am masses

All proceeds will go towards WYD funding



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

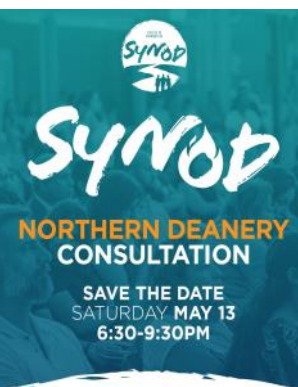
Ministries for Formation include Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. Comprehensive training for ministers who wish to serve at the altar during Mass for their parish.

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>

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



A Synod is both an event and a process where clergy, consecrated and the laity gather to discuss important matters relating to the life and mission of the Church. Synods are transformative events that lead to renewal in the Church's life.

Our Synod will gather clergy, religious, and the laity across our Diocese to listen, discern, and respond to the Holy Spirit through voices of the People of God in Western Sydney and The Blue Mountains.

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

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

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

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

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

Date: 13th May, Saturday

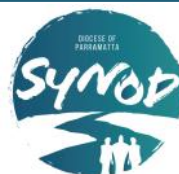
Time: 6:30 - 9:30pm

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

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.



PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESAN SYNOD

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

Bless and guide our
Diocesan Synod.

Keep us anchored in your
love. Open our hearts as we
listen and discern. Reveal to
us the way we are called to
go out into the deep. Give
us the courage to pursue the
mission with bold humility.
May we experience renewal
in our local Church today
and for generations to come.

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

Amen

Our Lady Help of
Christians, pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross
MacKillop, pray for us.

CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

Office Contacts

☎ (02) 8883 5981

📞 0423 160567 (AH Emergency)

160 Perfection Avenue,
Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768

MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,
NSW 2768

CLERGY

Parish Priest:

Fr Jolly Chacko

✉ jolly@john23rd.org.au

📞 0417 541 637 (for emergency only)

Assistant Priest:

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

✉ Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au

STAFF

Secretary:

Tanya Gatt

✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au

Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

✉ sacramental@john23rd.org.au

Operations Manager:

Daphney Fernandes

✉ operations@john23rd.org.au

OTHER CONTACTS

Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ maintenance@john23rd.org.au

Columbarium queries:

Daphney Fernandes

✉ columbarium@john23rd.org.au

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish community!

Please take a welcome envelope
pack from the front entrance.

Visit our website

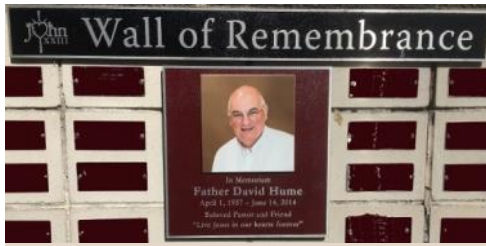
<http://john23rd.com/>

Like our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/john23rdparish

COELIACS

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



MEMORIAL WALL

The wall in front of the church is devoted to the memory of our deceased family and friends, especially if they are buried overseas. For any enquiries please email columbarium@john23rd.org.au

The plaques cost \$400.00



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Risen Lord Community Praise & Worship Night



**7.30pm
FRIDAYS,
St John23rd
College Hall**

Come join us for an evening of deep intimacy with the Lord. Learn about the abundant and victorious life that Jesus died and purchased for us to have.

AVENUE



JULIA STELLA

Licensed Real Estate Agent

M 0431 277 110

E julia.stella@theavenue.com.au

Scan for a property market update



COLUMBARIUM

Columbarium Niches reservations are getting filled from neighbouring parishioners. For our parishioners who are planning to buy a Niche, do so without delay, because we always want to prioritise members of our parish who wish to buy the Niches. For further information please contact the Parish Office.



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Bing Catabas

Chris Drummond
Margaret Harrison
Nanette Gamboa
Gary Lee

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PARISH SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL GAME ON!!



10:00 AM SATURDAYS
ST JOHN XXIII COLLEGE GROUNDS

Joseph - 0404 793800

Jason - 0427 933199

Preema - 0406 786768



TABLE TENNIS SOCIALS

10:00 AM SATURDAYS
ST JOHN XXIII COLLEGE GROUNDS

Parish Sports Coordinator
Neville - 0466 262850

Come and join our sports socials every Saturday, 10:00am at St John 23rd College's outdoor courts. If interested contact the coordinators listed above in order to be included in our WhatsApp Sports chat group.



Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm



PRAISE AND WORSHIP

3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm
SJ23rd Prayer Group