

Cnr Perfection Ave & Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens
<http://john23rd.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish/> www.instagram.com/sj23stanhope

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.

The link between the first reading (Isa 40:1-5, 9-11) and gospel (Mark 1:1-8) is easily identified, for the latter ("A voice cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way...") borrows from the former ("A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way..."). Our translations reveal some ambiguity here around the question: Is it the voice or the way that is in the wilderness? The position of the phrase "in the wilderness" is somewhat ambiguous in the Hebrew as well as in the Greek Septuagint, which Mark cites. However, the Greek lacks the Hebrew's concluding "in the desert" which clearly indicates that the highway is in the wilderness or desert. This suggests our Lectionary's current reading of Isaiah is correct, but there is no indication of where the crying voice is. The ambiguity of the Greek version allows for the application of the image to John the Baptist who lived in the wilderness, in which place he called people to prepare for the arrival of God's saving work. But in this linguistic confusion, another shift has taken place, revealed in the question: Who will use this highway? Since Isaiah refers to the Israelites being released from their Babylonian exile, it is they, God's people, who were to return home to Israel on the way God prepared for them. God does not need the way smoothed, nor does God pass along this way, but commands it to be made easier for the returning people to travel it; their being returned is the manifestation of the glory of the Lord. The "make straight" of our translation of Isaiah seems to refer to direction, that is, in a straight line, but the sense is in fact "level" or "smooth". Hence the mountains and hills are levelled and the valleys filled in, for it matters not whether the road meanders, but that it be smooth and easy for all to take, little lambs and nursing ewes alike.

John the Baptist too makes the way easier, not for God, but for God's people. He is the voice that speaks of peace for God's people. His ministry is that of calling people to repent, and of baptising them for the remission of sins; set free from the penalty for sin they are able to "come home" to the Lord, or are able to receive the Lord who comes. On this Sunday, then, Advent's meaning of "coming" or "drawing near" is somewhat ambiguous, for it is the sinner who comes home, who comes to the Lord. However, at the time of John's ministry it was preparatory to receiving Christ who would proclaim the Kingdom of God, or of Heaven, and provide the abiding remission of sins. Today it is a reminder to us each to cultivate a heart prepared to receive Christ. For we make a mistake if we restrict the references to Christ's arrival to their being a remembrance of past events (either of his birth or of his later emergence in public for his ministry) and a looking forward to his second coming at the end of time. Since we are each still being evangelized, still hearing the Good News, still growing deeper in knowledge of it, we need now to cultivate hearts that are open to receiving it, for it will come in ways unforeseen and unexpected. This means we must attend to the rough obstacles of mountains and valleys that form the metaphorical landscape of our own hearts. However, we are often blind to our own faults and so may not always identify those obstacles we make, be they mountains or hills, or rifts or rills.

How do we smooth what we do not perceive? Perhaps a way is to practise intentionally what we believe to be right and good. Following the images presented in Psalm 85(84), it is to practise compassion with truth or faithfulness, and to practice justice with peace. Christ comes as world healer, and the purgative message of John prepares the way to receive him. If we are Christ's ministers in the world, and thus participants in the work of healing, we need to be like doctors: to observe symptoms of illness, and seek compassionately to heal. In seeking to free others of debilitating conditions, which include the oppressions inflicted by others or society, we may help them to be free to receive the Christ.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24th December Christmas Eve
6.00pm, 9.00pm, 12:00am MIDNIGHT

25th December Christmas Day
9.00am & 10.30am

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
Thurs 9:15am during school days

Masses of Devotion

1st Tues 7.30pm Novena Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
1st Fri 7:30pm Novena Mass
Sacred Heart of Jesus

Exposition + Benediction

1st Fri after 9.15am 7.30pm

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

Sun 12pm Baptism by appointment

Prayers

Mon 7.30pm Christian Meditation
Frances Pegram 0417 406715
Tue 7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers (*Church Tabernacle*)
Fri 6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group
Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039

Praise & Worship

Fri 7:30pm Risen Lord Comm
3rd Sat 7:30pm SJ23rd Prayer Grp

Special Blessings

Blessing during masses
1st Sun Birthday celebrants
3rd Sun Couple's Wedding anniversary

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.

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Peter 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Josephine Apap, Franck Cucek, Mike Kendall, Jean Gumban Alvarez

Anniversary:

Rolando Reodique

Deceased:

Lolita Ludovice, Virginia Pangilinan

Sick: Names published with permission.

Lord Jesus, heal me. Heal in me whatever You see needs healing. Heal me of whatever might separate me from You. Heal my memory, heal my heart, heal my emotions, heal my spirit, heal my body, heal my soul. Lay Your hands now gently upon me and heal me through Your love for me. Amen.

Adrian Gould, Marilyn Nalapo, Cathie Christie Karen Piscopo, Cesar De Jesus, Maria Romeo, Cristina Arceo, Isagani Ocampo, Hilary Regan, Geoffrey Robinson, Wally Atie, Obet Dionisio Maryanne Jaramillo, Zoey Illic, Emma Matoza, Matteazi Family, Manuel Sarris, Carrie Conolly, John Tipton, Jovita Castillo, Christina Properzi Ksenija Bosnic, Jennifer Estrada, Virgie Santos Charlie Busuttil, Jerry Bondoc, Anna Sebastian Fr Joseph, Valeria Laureta, Barbara Thompson Peter McArdle, Paco Matias, Florentina Elisura Ben&Etta Benesa, Gloria Bueno, Louise Smith Rosamma Elizabeth Langley, Jonathan Gemin, Raymond Lanzona, Peter Dawson, Bev Lewis, Jakov&Marija Franich, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Perla Magculang, Cindy Dadivas, Victor Pons, Elsie Knapp, Susanne Krajancic, Jack Canlas, Pat Daly, Dudley Francis, Lenka Olivier Talija Elizabeth Candame, John Pellissery, Jo Daly, Virginia Villanueva

Thanksgiving:

Christian Reodique

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*

Merciful God,

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

Brother Roger of Taizé

December Church Calendar

Mon	11	8:30am - Mass
Tues	12	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	13	<i>Saint Lucy (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	14	<i>Sain John of the Cross (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Fri	15	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Sat	16	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass 7:00pm - Christmas carols
Sun	17	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am Mass 6:00pm - Mass

Praying together

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer

O 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

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.

Join us for rosary and novena prayers every Tuesday, 7:00pm other than First Tuesday Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.

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

Dec	5	12	19	26	
	<i>Paguinto</i>	Hala	Sebastian	Sebastian	
Jan	2	9	16	23	30
	Ring	Vasram	Hala	Sebastian	Tangunan
Feb	6	13	20	27	
	Gan	Ring	Tina B	Meena	
Mar	5	12	19	26	
	Cruz	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>	Shalini	
Apr	2	9	16	23	30
	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>	<i>available</i>

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

ALPHA PROGRAM

? Looking for a welcoming space to ask your life and faith questions?

? Interested in meeting other people in the parish?

? Want a space where you can invite your family and friends into the parish community?

Then John XXIII's Alpha program is a great next step for you! We meet weekly, always with food, lots of laughter and wholesome life and faith conversation!

For program schedule or to express your interest, contact Mei and Donnie on 0432042140 or fill up the form or scan the QR code



<https://forms.gle/sdEMryVwv7UpNPnZ7>
Looking forward to meeting you ☺

Dear Parishioners,

A few of our parishioners who were involved in the music ministry in the parish have moved residences, of ill health and have other commitments, we have a shortage of musicians and choir members.

If anyone or a group of people who can and are able to assist with the music ministry, please do so and make our liturgy celebrations more alive. If you can help, please be in touch with Neil Mascarenhas, our music ministry coordinator via email : neil.mas@gmail.com



Paying our debt together

We are very grateful to all our parishioners who always generously support our Parish.

FIRST COLLECTION supports the priests and deacons of the Diocese. **SECOND COLLECTION** goes to the running costs of our church, ministry expenses and specially to pay off our church mortgage.

A Planned giving Program is in place to help with the planning /budgeting of church expenses. The Parish Finance Committee encourages parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions instead of the envelope system. An SJ23rd registration form is available at the church foyer or from the website.

Parishioners who want to make a financial contribution are encouraged to use the TapnGo machines by the entrances or online via BPoint.

scan the QR code



Pastoral Ministries

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.



WE NEED YOU

⇒ 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 please call Asoki 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814. Training and resources will be provided.

⇒ 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.

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.

For those who are interested to be part of this ministry, application forms are available at the church foyer or via the website <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

All applications need to be endorsed by your parish Priest prior to attending the first Introductory session.



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

Mary Gale
Tel (02) 8858 5456
mary.gale@parracatholic.org

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2024

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____
Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____
Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please choose ONE location per session

BLACKTOWN (Mondays 7.00pm) Bede Heather Centre (formerly known as the Institute for Mission) 1-3 Marion St, Blacktown 2148	SESSIONS	PENRITH (Thursdays 7.00pm) St Nicholas of Myra PM22 Entry Via Higgins St, Penrith 2720
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 19th February	Compulsory Introductory Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 22nd February
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 26th February & 4th March	Ministers of the Word	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 29th February & 7th March
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 11th March & 18th March	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 14th March & 21st March
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 8th April	Communion to the Sick & Dying	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 11th April
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday 29th April	Ministers at the Altar	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 2nd May

* Please note if wishing to complete Communion to the Sick and Dying, it is compulsory to attend Ministers of Communion first.
* If you would like to become a Minister at the Altar, you must attend all 8 sessions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parish: _____
Parish Priest: _____
Parish Priest Signature: _____

Please complete and return before Friday 9th February, 2024

Please Return Enrolment Form to:
Office for Worship, Debra Centre, 470 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 | mary.gale@parracatholic.org
@parracatholic.org/office-for-worship



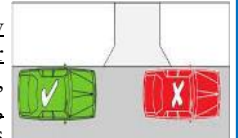
John McCabe
Karen Green
Julian Martin
Suni Fernando

Mei Velasco
Ajith Lobo
Helen Festejo
Rebecca Reynolds

DRIVEWAY/CARPAK 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.



FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH



If you wish to donate flowers for the altar, please email James David at jamesgdavid@hotmail.com or phone 0413 787 596

Thank you.

GOD LOVES US ALL!

Be inspired and liven up your spirit through Lanni Fides Books

Book 1: **ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD THROUGH DREAMS AND VISIONS** - author's testimonials of God's messages in sleep.

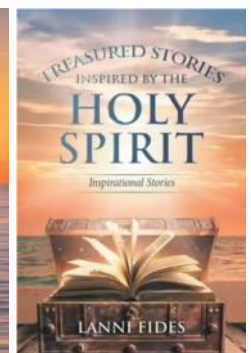
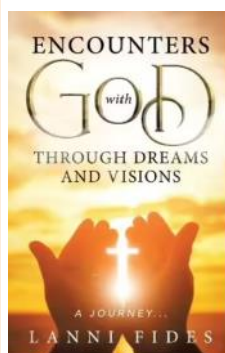
Book 2: **46 YEARS AFTER ... "THE SIGN"** - author's remarkable revelation of her inspiring life story on faith, love, marriage, family, and purpose in life.

Book 3: **TREASURED STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT** - inspirational stories of 22 different people in all walks of life, who experienced God's loving hands.

"Nihil Obstat" Published with Ecclesiastical Approval by Fr Wim Hoekstra, Censor Deputatus, Diocese of Parramatta

Now on sale at amazon.com.au/ search lanni fides books or order directly from the author via email on lynpanqi@outlook.com. Only books 1 & 2 are in her stock, first come, first served basis applies.

Cost/book \$20. A portion of sales goes to Parish SS Project. Author's website: www.lannifides.com.au



Join and be part of the
Cake Angels
contact Madeline Huang
cakeangels.sj23rd@gmail.com



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



Young at Hearts
Seniors Group contacts
Frank 0459 504625
Trevor 0407 150399



Vinnies
join the good works

Community Events



Building our Community
TOGETHER

We are organizing some mini events to contribute to our much needed church funds but **most especially** to boost our parish community engagements. It's about time to get together, know each other and begin to build up our Parish Community of St John 23rd.

We invite our different cultural community to host a Saturday Vigil or Sunday mornings mini event after our mass celebrations for a full community involvement. We encourage our parish community to support these mini endeavours.

Any other suggestions for church fanfare, activities or just availability of support are most welcome and greatly appreciated. Please contact either Nanette - 0404 465600 or Techie - 0439 201436.

**JOIN US,
ENJOY WITH US
UPCOMING
EVENT/S
Save the dates in
your diary**



We still have aprons for sale \$30.00

Please contact Techie on 0438 201436 or the parish office for orders.

A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Seniors Christmas Lunch!!

"Young at Hearts" Seniors is Christmas Lunch at 11.30am, 15th December at The Fiddler's, Rouse Hill. **COME AND JOIN US!!**

Being a busy month table reservation is critical. Seniors who would like to join and for more details please contact either Frank on 0459 504625 (frank.coleiro@gmail.com) or Trevor on 0407 150399.



MASS OF THE ROOSTER

JOIN US from 16th - 24th December as we prepare for Christmas. 6:00am except for the Sunday mass. Please bring a plate to share for breakfast



ST JOHN XXIII PARISH PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
160 PERFECTION AVE, STANHOPE GARDENS
7:00 PM

If interested to join please contact Bing Catabas on 0402 388 182



CHRISTMAS nativity play

ALL CHILDREN AGES 4-12 YEARS.
WE ARE INVITING CHILDREN TO PLAY CHARACTERS FROM THE NATIVITY STORY AND/OR NARRATE THE NATIVITY STORY.

24 DECEMBER, 2023

REHEARSAL DATES
10TH & 17TH DECEMBER AT 3PM

Let our children bring the story of Jesus birth to life.



PLEASE CONTACT HELEN FESTEJO TO EXPRESS INTEREST ON 0401671665 OR HELEN.FESTEJO@GMAIL.COM



CHERRY PICKING

We would like to sincerely apologize to those who were not able to join due to one bus not turning up. Rest assured, you will get a refund. Some families ended up driving so as not to miss out on the activity.

THANK YOU to everyone who joined in for cherry picking outing. It was a cloudy day and we experienced some drizzles but this did not stop us to enjoy the day with picking cherries and had a our fill we were not able to keep to the schedule.

Afterwards we went straight to Sts Peter and Paul Old Cathedral, such a beautiful church. We were toured around by three wonderful parishioners informing us of the church's history etc.

A special thanks goes to the organizers, Bob & Grace Agbulos, Resource Development/Events team. It is not an easy task to organize events and people! Watch out for more events from this team.

(Check out the photos on the FB page)

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.

COME AND JOIN

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

MORE YOUTH GROUPS

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord) YOUTH LEADERS		YFC (Youth for Christ) YOUTH LEADERS	
Rojith de Silva 0405 9563210	Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009	YFC International Vince Erasmo 0406 253698	YFC Australia Jonathan Montaos 0401 478733



more photos on church FB



For all youth ministry enquiries

✉ blaze@john23rd.org.au

or visit our FB page

www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/



BLAZE REGISTRATION FORM

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.beglenwood.catholic.edu.au

St John XXIII Catholic College

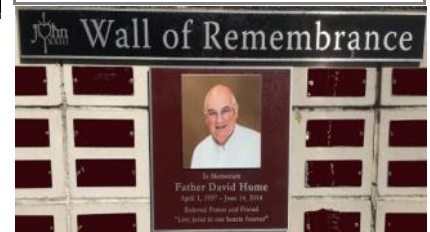
160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au



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 \$500.00



COLUMBARIUM

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.



MET
Pastoral Formation



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



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

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or call Karin - 0419 242435

or Marisa - 0412 280017.

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

The Mission Enhancement Team'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/>

Reminder for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care chaplaincy services.

Will you support our chaplains to listen with the ear of the heart? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas.

**Help Catholic Care chaplains
give comfort, faith, and hope
to people suffering
this Christmas**

"The poor and the sick are
the heart of God."

"In serving them,
we serve Jesus Christ."

- St Camillus de Lellis



Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal
yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



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

OTHER CONTACTS

Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ maintenance@john23rd.org.au

Columbarium queries:

✉ columbarium@john23rd.org.au

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COELIACS

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