

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 thrust of the opening lines of the first reading (Isa 61:1-2,10-11) is consistent with the topic raised last Sunday: the mission of the Lord's anointed is to "bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken, to proclaim liberty... a year of favour from the Lord". Both Sundays have an emphasis on John the Baptist, who goes before Christ, preparing people to receive him. Both Sundays emphasise that Christ comes with salvation, not with condemnation and destruction. It is indeed a good message. Today's first reading then fittingly turns into a song of joy (v.10-11) in one of the sources for Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55, parts of which form today's responsorial psalm. The Latin Vulgate uses the verb *gaudeo* (rejoice) in that section of Isaiah, the same verb forming the entrance antiphon's first word that gave this Sunday its Latin nickname, *Gaudete* (Rejoice ye). The Vulgate has the same verb at the opening of today's second reading (1 Thess 5:16-24), but our current translation uses "Be happy".

An image then presented in Isaiah is useful for us in the Southern Hemisphere. It is often claimed that our Advent is out of place seasonally because its prayers and texts were formulated in the context of the deepening winter in the Northern Hemisphere as darkness grows. There is, in fact, very little direct reference in our Advent liturgies to images of darkness and light (which does however occur in today's gospel), but preoccupation with such themes has impeded noticing other images, such as we hear today in Isaiah that "as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up". This is not the language of winter, nor of gloom, but of spring and new life. In the tropics many trees are usually still in bloom, the various *Cassias* in gold and pink and yellow alongside the *Poinciana's* scarlet and orange, not to mention the ubiquitous *Bougainvillea's* magenta, all creating at times a extravagantly floral cloak, bedecking the very land in festive finery, as perhaps once we ourselves might have done to prepare to receive a dignitary, or a king.

The joyful imagery of the first reading is echoed in the second reading's exhortation oriented to being ready to receive Christ when he comes (his second coming). The gospel (John 1:6-8,19-28) returns us to Christ's first coming, with that part from John's prologue that speaks both of Christ as light and of John the Baptist as his witness. We will hear this again in the Mass of Christmas Day when we read the whole of the John's prologue (John 1:1-18) that has been the feature of the Roman Rite's Christmas celebration since antiquity. This arose not from any desire to emphasise themes of light and dark during winter, but because of the work's reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation, which is at the heart of the feast. Today, the excerpt clarifies that John is not the light, and it preludes the encounter of John with the representatives of Jerusalem, in which he stresses that he is not the Christ, nor Elijah (who, having been taken to heaven rather than dying, was expected to return before the Messiah), nor the Prophet (the ambiguous Moses-like figure promised in Deuteronomy 18:15,18; see the reflection for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, A). John's "I am not" statements are a counterpoint to the later "I am" statements by Jesus in this same Gospel of John. As for John the Baptist, so also for ourselves: in our encounters with others we are not to promote our own message, but Christ himself. This is not best done by loud preaching and hectoring, which are always a pushing of our own concerns, but by entering into personal encounter with others in a such a way that we embody and enact what we have received in Christ, and the joy of his gospel of salvation. In this way, as people moved by our own encounters with Christ, our engagement with others becomes a setting in which we then point to him by the very manner of our lives and the disposition of our hearts.

There will not be a 8.30am Mass on Monday the 18th December.
We will have the Dawn Mass at 6.00am.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24th December Christmas Eve

6.00pm in the school HUB

9.00pm in the CHURCH

12:00am MIDNIGHT in the CHURCH

25th December Christmas Day

9.00am - in the school HUB

10.30am - in the school HUB

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R.**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Maryanne

Recently Deceased:

Judith Cross, Monty Sultana, Michael Kidd, Siji Jacob

Anniversary:

Colleen McCunnie, Napoleon Cardenas, Rolando Reodique, Christian Reodique, Errol Sansouci, Irene Cherry, Patrick Cherry

Deceased:

Sebastian & Emy Livolsi, James Youngman

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.

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

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*

Jesus Christ,
we seek you as you behold us.
Your glance comes to banish the pain from
our hearts. Then you say to us:
"Do not worry; though I am invisible, always
I am with you."

Brother Roger of Taizé

December Church Calendar

Mon	18	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster
Tues	19	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	20	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Thurs	21	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Fri	22	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass
Sat	23	6:00am - Mass of the Rooster 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	24	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am Mass 6:00pm - Family Mass in Hub 9:00pm - Mass in Church 12 midnight Mass in Church

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>	<i>Hala</i>	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 0432 042140 or fill up the form or scan the QR code



<https://forms.gle/sdEMryVwvhUpNPnZ7>
Looking forward to meeting you ☺

Dear Parishioners,

We have a shortage of musicians and choir members.

A few of our parishioners who were involved in the music ministry in the parish have moved residences or have other commitments. If any person or group of people are interested and are able to assist with the music ministry, you are most welcome to join and make our liturgy celebrations more alive.

Please contact 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, Bethany Centre, 470 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150 | mary.gale@parracatholic.org
@parracatholic.org/office-for-worship



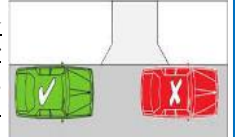
John McCabe
Karen Green
Julian Martin
Suní Fernando

Mei Velasco
Ajith Lobo
Helen Festejo
Rebecca Reynolds

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.



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.

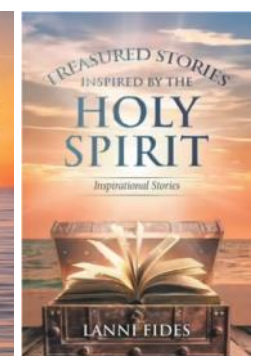
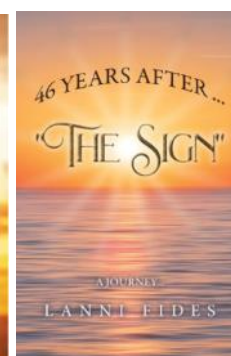
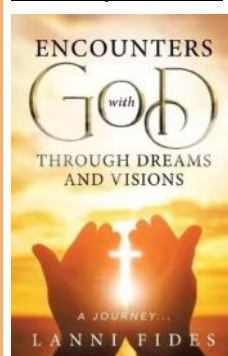
Book 2: 46 YEARS AFTER ... "THE SIGN" - author's remarkable revelation of her inspiring life story on faith, love, marriage, family, and purpose in life.

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**



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



FOOD & DANCE FESTIVAL
SJXXIII HUB

SAVE THE DATE

10 FEBRUARY 2024

MUSIC ● FOOD ● DANCE ● ENTERTAINMENT



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



We still have aprons for sale
\$30.00

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

**A GREAT CHRISTMAS
GIFT**

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	<u>YFC International</u> Vince Erasmo 0406 253698	<u>YFC Australia</u> Jonathan Montaos 0401 478733

SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY

ONE CAN SEE SENIORS HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME AT LAST FRIDAY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, IT WAS LOVELY TO SEE A GOOD TURN OUT ON THIS ANNUAL EVENT.

ON BEHALF OF THE SENIORS GROUP, WE WISH ALL OUR SENIORS OF THE PARISH
"A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS"



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

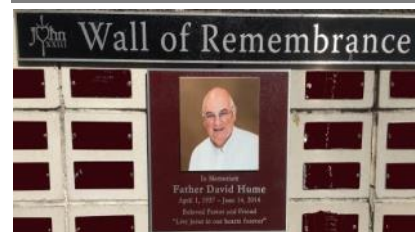
160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

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://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/>

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VINCENT

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Advent is a special time for preparing our hearts for the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ through prayer, reflections, Christmas hymns, generosity and good deeds. We also reflect on God's great generosity to us, for the gift of His only son Jesus Christ and all the blessings that he has bestowed upon us, His children. It's also a time to rejoice in the opportunity for more people to come to know Jesus Christ and be aware of God's presence in our lives.

During this season of giving, would you please consider a Christmas Offertory gift for the evangelical work of your parish in gratitude for God's gift of grace and all His blessings?

Our parishes rely on our faith community's generosity to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral care and charitable works. Any gift, whatever you can give, will nourish our parishes' spiritual vitality and pastoral care that brings hope and joy to our community.

If you can consider a gift of sustained support through planned giving, the best way is through automatic monthly online donations.

Knowing we have the commitment of faithful supporters enables us to advance our ministry and more widely share Jesus Christ's message of love and salvation.

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Thank you for your kindly supporting your parish's mission and ministry. With your prayers and generosity, our parish priests can continue to be beacons of Christ's light, love and hope to all.



Please scan QR code to
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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 (if 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

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish community!

Please take a welcome envelope pack from the front entrance.

Visit our website

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



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Christmas Offertory

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