

# First Sunday of Advent 3 December 2023



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.

Advent, Coming or Drawing near, is a somewhat quirky liturgical season. It embraces the Lord's historic first coming in time (his birth) and his awaited second coming (his return) at the end of time, but between these is a pivot with John the Baptist preparing people for the Lord's entering into his public ministry. Advent in effect presents these arrivals in reverse order: it opens by concluding the eschatological themes that had already emerged in the Lectionary as Ordinary Time's unfolding of the Lord's public ministry draws to an end; then John the Baptist prepares the way for the approaching Christ; then we turn to Christ's conception as we begin to prepare for the annual celebration of the great feast of his Incarnation, his birth. Thus as we switch from Matthew's gospel to Mark's, we hear again the command to "Stay awake" that we last heard three Sundays ago (Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, A) and are reminded of the need to be ready for Christ's return as prefigured in the gospel parables on the next two Sundays. But since Mark does not cover the Lord's birth in any way after next Sunday, when we turn to the beginning of Mark for his coverage of John the Baptist, we will not read Mark again until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

As just mentioned above, today's gospel passage picks up the tone that first appeared three Sundays ago, and so we are warned no few than four times to stay awake since we know not when the master will come back. We are the servants entrusted with the household. This pericope is either a fusion of different sayings, or it has lost something in translation; it is inconceivable that anyone going abroad should tell the doorkeeper to stay awake. For one thing, the poor creature would go mad covering the long period required for such an absence, from which the master could return not only on any day, but at any time of the day; yet all the time cues are related to the night. The language points more to the context of a householder going out for the evening, thus expecting to be absent only relatively briefly, returning that same night. Secondly, it would be odd to expect the servants to have many jobs to do throughout the night, and it is only the doorkeeper who is told to stay awake. No, we seem to have at least two scenarios blended: one of the householder going abroad and leaving the servants to do the work entrusted to them (cf. the gospel parable last Sunday), and the other of the doorkeeper being warned to keep alert for the householders immanent return. Common to both is the advice to be dutifully attentive to the tasks at hand. This is echoed in the second reading (1 Cor 1:3-9), addressed to people awaiting the Lord's return. The theme of our being left and God's returning arise early in the first reading (Isa 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8), but it does so in a manner that can be read as a petition to God to send his Christ. Indeed, it is here that we find the reference "No ear has heard, no eye has seen", a possible source of 1 John 1:1 where it is upended to become "what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes". It also refers to God's having hidden his visage, which prompts the choice of Psalm 80(79) with the response, "let us see your face", which more literally translates as "shine your face [upon us]". Either way, however, works with the response's ending, "and we shall be saved" using the verb save (yasha') from which the name "Jesus" derives.



# **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."

Mon	
Tues Sat Sun	s-Fri 9:15am 9.00am, 6pm Vigil 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm 7 Cross Primary School
	<b>Masses of Devotion</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Tu 1 <sup>st</sup> Fr	ues 7.30pm Novena Mass Our Lady of Perpetual Help ii 7:30pm Novena Mass Sacred Heart of Jesus
E	xposition + Benediction
1 <sup>st</sup> Fr	<b>i</b> after 9.15am 7.30pm
	Reconciliation
After Sat	the weekday masses after the 9am mass <i>until</i> 10.30am 5:15 - 5:45pm before the Vigil Mass or upon request
	Sacraments
Sun	<b>Sacraments</b> 12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i>
Sun	
Sun Mon Tue Fri	12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i> <b>Prayers</b> 7.30pm Christian Meditation <i>Frances Pegram 0417 406715</i>
Mon Tue	12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i> <b>Prayers</b> 7.30pm Christian Meditation <i>Frances Pegram 0417 406715</i> 7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers <i>(Church Tabernacle)</i> 6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group
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Blessing during masses 1<sup>st</sup> Sun Birthday celebrants 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun Couple's Wedding anniversary

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Please attend one of the Masses on

that day.

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.

Technician, are in the process

of getting the best deal to

install the system soon.

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

# **First Reading**

#### Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

#### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

# **R.** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. R.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see, Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R**.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**.

#### **Second Reading** ading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-5

#### The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God

# Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Gospel** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

#### Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ** 

## **Communion Antiphon**

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



## **Special Intentions**

#### **Recently Deceased:**

Maximilian Epondulan, Jean Gumban Alverez Arthur Webster, Franck Cucek, Mike Kendall, Josephine Apap

#### Anniversary:

Elpidio Beltran

Deceased:

#### 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 genthy upon me and heal me through Your love for me. Amen.

Karen Piscopo, Cesar De Jesus, Maria Romeo, Cristina Arceo Isagani Ocampo, Hilary Regan, Geoffrey Robinson, Wally Atie, Obet Dionisio Marvanne 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 Perla Magculang, Cindy Dadivas, Victor Pons, Elsie Knapp, Susanne Krajancic, Jack Canlas, Raymond Lanzona, Peter Dawson, Bev Lewis, Rosamma Elizabeth Langley, Jonathan Gemin, Ben&Etta Benesa, Gloria Bueno, Louise Smith Pat Daly, Dudley Francis, Virginia Villanueva Elizabeth Candame, John Pellissery, Jo Daly, Peter McArdle, Cathie Christie, Paco Matias, Lenka Olivier Talija, , Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Jakov&Marija Franich, Florentina Elisura

#### 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

God of compassion, we praise you for the multitudes of women men, young people, who, all over the world, seek to bear witness to peace, to reconciliation, to communion. *Brother Roger of Taize* 

# December Church CalendarMon48:30am - Mass

Tues	5	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	6	9:15am - Mass
Thurs	7	Sain Ambrose (M) 9:15am - Mass
Fri	8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S) 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass
Sat	9	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	10	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		
Dec	Paguinto	Hala	Sebastian	Sebastian		
Tem	2	9	16	23	30	
Jan	Ring	Vasram	available	Sebastian	Tangunan	
Feb	6	13	20	27		
reb	Gan	Ring	available	available		
Mar	5	12	19	26		
Mar	Cruz	available	available	available		
Apr 2	2	9	16	23	30	
	available	available	available	available	available	
"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"						

"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



<u>https://forms.gle/sdEMryVwv</u> <u>hUpNPnZ7</u> Looking forward to meeting you ©

#### Dear Parishioners,

Since a few of our parishioners who were involved in the music ministry in the parish have moved their residence to other locations, ill health and other demands, we are in a big shortage of Musicians and choir members. I am sure all of you have noticed that at a number of weekend masses has no choir. If any one of you 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.



scan the QR

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

# **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.



# $\Rightarrow$ 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.

## $\Rightarrow$ 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

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		Last Name:		
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	Please	choose ONE location pe	r sessi	on
know	BLACKTOWN (Mondays 7.00pm) le Heather Centre (formerly n as the institute for Mission) Marion St, Blacktown 2148	SESSIONS	Ento	PENRITH (Thursdays 7.00pm) St Nicholas of Myra PMR1, ry Via Higgins St, Penrith 2750
	Monday 19th February	Compulsory Introductory Session		Thursday 22nd February
	Monday 26th February & 4th March	Ministers of the Word		Thursday 29th February & 7th March
	Monday 11th March & 18th March	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion		Thursday 14th March & 21st March
	Monday 8th April	Communion to the Sick & Dying		Thursday 11th April
	Monday 29th April	Ministers at the Altar		Thursday 2nd May
f you i	would like to become a Minister at th	nion to the Sick and Dying, it is comp e Altar, you must attend all 8 session	•	
arish:				
arish	Priest:			
	Priest Signature:			









Karen Green Julian Martin Suni Fernando

John McCabe

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.

# **ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

The St Vincent De Paul Society will be having a Sausage sizzle and baked goods sale after all the weekend Masses of Saturday, 2nd December, 6PM and Sunday 3rd December, after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30AM Masses.



A donation could also be made by using the QR Code. Thank you as your support will assist those in need.





#### **Community Events**



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

A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

orders.



THE YOUNG AT HEART CHRISTMAS PARTY

"The Young At Heart" Seniors of the parish will be holding Xmas Morning Tea Party on Friday the 8th December outside (weather permitting) our church kitchen after the 9.15am mass. We have a couple of hampers to raffle during the party. Please bring along a plate to share, a plate of the special Christmas goodies that you are famous for. Seniors of the parish are welcome to come.

For more details, contact Frank on 0459504625 or Trevor on 0407150399.



#### The Seniors are at it again !!!

It's that time of year that we celebrate Christmas and the "Young at Hearts" Seniors is organizing a 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 of the following:

on 0459 504625 Frank (via email frank.coleiro@gmail.com) or Trevor on 0407 150399.



# CHRISTMAS nativity play

ALL CHILDREN AGES 4-12 YEARS. WE ARE INVITING CHILREN TO PLAY CHARACTERS FROM THE NATIVITY STORY

24 DECEMBER, 2023

REHEARSAL DATES 10TH & 17TH DECEMBER AT 3PM

brith to life

FESTEJO TO EXPRESS INTEREST ON 0401671665 OR

# 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.

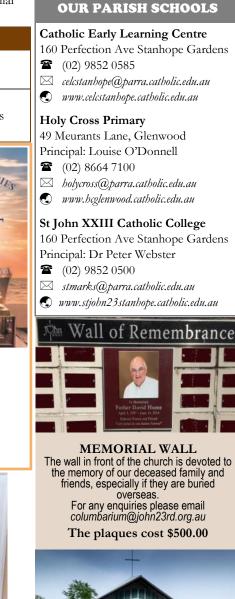
If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at <u>blaze@john23rd.org.au</u>

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       OUR PARISH SCHOOLS         SODLOVESUSALI be inspired and liven up your spirit through Lanni Fides look 1: <u>ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD THROUGH DREAMS and INSONS - author's testmonials of God's messages in sleep, cook 2: <u>46 YEABS AFTER</u> "THE SIGN" – author's markable revelation of her inspiring life story on faith, we marriage, family, and purpose in life look 3: <u>TERSURED STORIES INSPIRED and with Ecclesiastical Approval by remarkable revelation of her inspiring life story on faith, now asle at amazon.com.au / Search: lanni fides books. or order directly rom the author via email on <i>lynpangi@outbook.com</i> Dhy books 18: 2a rein her stock, first come, first served basis applies. Cost/book \$20. A portion of sales goes to Parish SS Project. uthor's website: www.klannifides.com.au       MEMORIAL WALL   </u></u>	Youth Coordinator	Asst Youth Coordinator	Yout	h Leaders	BLAZE REGISTRATION FOR
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100100 Convex       1011000000000000000000000000000000000					<ul> <li>(02) 9852 0585</li> <li>celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au</li> </ul>
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⊠ blaze@john23rd.org.au

or visit our FB page



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#### Diocesan News



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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 website or via our on Spotify: https://pfparra.org.au/soulfood/

**BISHOP VINCENT INVITES YOU TO** CELEBRATE THE 60TH YEAR OF THE CONSTITUTION **ON THE SACRED** LITURGY

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows." - Sacrosanctum Concilium

# MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2023 **MASS 7:30PM** ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL. PARRAMATTA

Followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Hall

RSVP to 0460 037 795 or hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

# CONTACTS

# PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm **Office Contacts** (02) 8883 5981 **()** 0423 160567 (*AH Emergency*) 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768

# MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768

# CLERGY

Parish Priest: Fr Jolly Chacko jolly@john23rd.org.au **(**) 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

# **NEW TO OUR PARISH?**

Welcome to our parish community! Please take a welcome envelope pack from the front entrance. Visit our website <u> http://john23rd.com/</u> 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.

# SJ23rd SATURDAY SOCIAL SPORT

Volleyball | Table Tennis | Football All ages and abilities welcome.

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