

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 31 December 2023

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams -Pope St John 23rd

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.

When first instituted in 1893 for use in Epiphanytide, this feast employed Luke's account of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:41-52, now read in Year C), in which Jesus appears to be a typical teenager developing ideas of his own, causing not a little anxiety to his parents in the process. In this Year B in the reformed Lectionary we read instead Luke's report of the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple (2:22-40), a reading to be repeated on the feast of the Presentation (2 February).

It is worth paying closer attention to the names of the two extra characters: Simeon, and Anna of the tribe of Asher. The names Simeon and Asher first appear in the account of patriarch Jacob's complicated family life in Genesis 29-30. Jacob loved and intended to marry Rachel, but after the wedding he discovered he had been duped into marrying instead her elder sister Leah whom he did not love. He later married Rachel too. Now Leah hoped that bearing children would bring Jacob to love her; and she was fertile. Her second son was Simeon, said to mean "Heard". Meanwhile, beloved Rachel was barren, and so she gave her maid Bilhah to Jacob in effect as her surrogate; Bilhah bore two sons, whom Rachel claimed as her own. Having borne four sons Leah's fertility ended, yet desiring more she copied Rachel's method and gave Jacob her own maid, Zilpah; Leah claimed each of Zilpah's two sons, naming the second son Asher, said to mean "Happy", saying "Happy am I! For women will call me happy", which is found in a modified form in Mary's Magnificat. The competition did not cease; Rachel traded conjugal access to Jacob to Leah in exchange for the reputed aphrodisiac Leah had obtained. Leah had two more sons and a daughter before Rachel finally came to have sons of her own, Joseph and Benjamin.

Luke's mention of the names of Simeon and Asher may be significant for their being the progenitors of the southern and northern most tribes of Israel, thus having the baby Jesus metaphorically embraced by all of Israel. It may also be significant that both were second sons, thus playing on a frequent trope in Jewish and Gentile-Christian conflicts over who the true descendants of Abraham were: the children of the flesh or those by later adoption.

Year B's ad libitum first and second readings (Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3 and Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19) mention Abraham and Sarah, the models of faith. But these too have a complicated family life. Barren Sarah also gave her handmaid, Hagar, to Abraham to have children, which led to awkward rivalries. All this brings us to observe that aspects of child surrogacy, with attendant problems, are not as new as most people think; it is our technological methods that are new, along with the attendant legal complexities. Whatever imperative may drive it, the desire for children can be strong enough to override other sensibilities in seeking its fulfilment. Observing this by no means lends support to all efforts and modes at having children, but perhaps recollection of these features in the key biblical families may temper our approach to the same struggles in the lives of people today.

Nor can the Holy Family be seen as normal according to the more modern respectable model, with Joseph taking on Mary already with child to become foster-father to Jesus. With these models of holy families we must conclude that the biblical picture is messy, or at least not reflective of the so-called "nuclear family", a modern fantasy. However divergent from what we have considered the respectable model to be, the complicated biblical families are presented to us as seedbeds of faith and as arenas of encounter with God. John Wesley on 30 December 1786, speaking on neatness of apparel, stated that "Cleanliness is indeed next to godliness" (Sermon 88.5, "On Dress"), but we may retort that, according to Scripture "Godliness is found in the midst of messiness." This is indeed the point of the Incarnation; Jesus came not as the reward for a perfect life, but as God engaging with the messy reality of human life; and in the messy reality of human life, God may be met.



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

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First Reading

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! R.

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. R.

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. R.

Second Reading

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22, 39-40

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



Maryanne

Recently Deceased:

Marietta Ceballos

Anniversary:

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 gently upon me and heal me through Your love for me.

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 yould want to receive communion in your home please contact the parish office.

PRAYING in the SILENCE of the HEART

Holy Spirit, mystery of a presence, you always come to us. You remain in the very depths of our souls and you awaken within us the expectation of a communion with you.

Brother Roger of Taize

December Church Calendar

Mon Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (S)

9:15am - Mass

Tues Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen (M)

9:15am - Mass

7:30pm - Novena Mass to

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wed 9:15am - Mass

Thurs 9:15am - Mass

Fri 9:15am - Mass

Sat

9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass

Sun The Epiphany of the Lord (F) 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						
T	2		9	16	23	30
Jan		Ring	Vasram	Hala	Sebastian	Tangunan
Feb	6		13	20	27	
		Gan	Ring	Tina B	Meena	
Mar	5		12	19	26	
		Cruz	available	available	Shalini	
Apr	2		9	16	23	30
		available	available	available	available	available
May	7		14	21	28	
		available	available	available	available	

"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 uner people parish? in the

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 your express interest contact Mei and Donnie on 0432 042140 or fill up the form or scan the QR code



https://forms.gle/sdEMryVwv hUpNPnZ7

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 fover 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.



⇒ 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. <u>Training and resources will be provided</u>.

⇒ 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.

%Z	CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PA	ARRAMATTA	↓ (02) 8838 3456 E3 mary.gale@parracatholic.org		
	Liturgical Min	istry Formation	Co	urses 2024	
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Addre	ss:				
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ubur	D:		Posto	ode:	
hone		Email Address			
Horse		Email Address			
	Please	choose ONE location pe	r sessi	on	
BLACKTOWN (Mondays 7.00pm) Bede Heather Centre (formerly		SESSIONS	PENRITH (Thursdays 7.00pm)		
	n as the institute for Mission) Marion St. Blacktown 2148		Ent	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	
		nion to the Sick and Dying, it is comp ne Altar, you must attend all B session		attend Ministers of Communion first.	
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arish	Priest:				
arish	Priest Signature:				

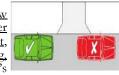


John McCabe Karen Green Julian Martin Suni Fernando Mei Velasco Ajith Lobo Helen Festejo Rebecca Reynolds

DRIVEWAY/CARPARK SAFETY

For everyone's safety, please park <u>at least 1.8 meters</u> from the church's driveway entrance.

Your parked vehicle must <u>not block the flow</u> 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

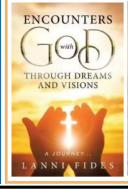
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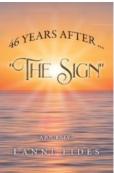
Book 3: <u>TREASURED STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT</u> – inspirational stories of 22 different people in all walks of life, who experienced God's loving hands.

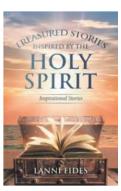
"Nihil Obstat" Published with Ecclesiastical Approval by Fr Wim Hoekstra, Censor Deputatus, Diocese of Parramatta

Now on sale at $\underline{amazon.com.au}$ search lanni fides books or order directly from the author via email on $\underline{lynpangi@outlook.com}$. Only books 1 & 2 are in her stock, first served basis applies.

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















Community Events



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



FOOD & DANCE FESTIVAL

SJXXIII HUB

SAVE THE DATE







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						
	ity of the Risen Lord) [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			



For all youth ministry enquiries

implies 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
- ⊠ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
- www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

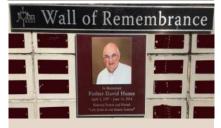
49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood Principal: Louise O'Donnell

- **(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



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

For further information please contact the Parish Office.









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/

CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

Office Contacts

2 (02) 8883 5981

1 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

1 0417 541 637 (if emergency only)

Assistant Priest:

Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic

Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au

STAFF

Secretary:

Tanya Gatt

Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

accounts@john23rd.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

sacramental@john23rd.org.au

 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

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.



Office for Safeguarding Parramatta Way is to:

- ◆ Act with Justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person
- ◆ Act with justice and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount https://safeguarding.org.au/

St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.



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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.



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