

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.

Moses was the Law giver. When he promised that God would raise another prophet like himself, it may be interpreted as indicating that this prophet will be the giver of a New Law. This is indeed how we Christians read texts such as this Sunday's first reading (Deut 18:15-20). We manage this also because while the context reveals that more than one prophet is envisaged, probably at different times, the construction is cast in the singular. So, one reading is that there will be a series of prophets, one after another, while the other reading is that there will be a single Prophet, the Christ. There is another christological reading too: the prophet will also be one from among them; he will be born of this people. Technically, according to the Exodus account, Moses was a Hebrew, but being raised by the class of oppressors of his own people, and having fled to a foreign land, he came to the Hebrews as more of an outsider. The new prophet would truly be one of their own. Jesus was born among them, though in a previously unnamed Galilean backwater, and walked among them, drawing followers to himself from his own compatriots, as we heard last Sunday. From the outset he is seen to be charismatic, for those he encountered and called followed him promptly.

In today's gospel (Mark 1:21-28) Jesus and his disciples reach the fishing village Capernaum, and there he teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Here he is presented as one with a teaching that is new. Here also we find one of the characteristically Marcan structures, where an episode is sandwiched between two parts of another construction. In this case, two synonyms indicate the "sandwich" of this device in v.22 and 27, but the first is weakened in our Lectionary's translation: *exeplessonto* (from *ekplessō*) became "made a deep impression on them" rather than the more direct "they were amazed/astounded", with its counterpart *ethambēthesan* (from *thambeō*), "they were astonished". They are first amazed by his teaching, and their astonishment is confirmed when his authoritative teaching is demonstrated in action, the sandwich's filling. In it is a man with an unclean spirit, and such unclean spirits are the first to recognize Jesus for who he really is. But when the man speaks, it is in the plural, "What do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us?" This sometimes trips people up into thinking of the man as one possessed by many demons who fear what Jesus will do to them. But even the order Jesus gave, "Be muzzled!", is in the singular. So, who is the "us" the man speaks for?

We may approach this by way of the clue of Mark's device: the two things are one thing, or, breaking away from the concrete example of the sandwich we eat, it is the unfolding in time of a twofold manifestation of the same process: Jesus comes to set free. The new teaching that sets people free, which throughout the four Gospels is the remission of sin and debt, is manifested in the man set free from the unclean spirit; Jesus has not come to destroy us, certainly not to punish us sinners according to the usual way of law, but to free us. The man is set free from that which causes his social isolation and he is restored to society.

But finally a word about the second reading. This one passage does not mean that Christianity has an aversion to marriage, which Paul here likens to a noose or halter, nor even to human love and sexuality. Paul was working from the mistaken belief that the world would soon end, which makes attention to any long-term plan in the world a waste of time. What remains good in what he said is that it reveals the expectation that the duty of marriage is for husbands and wives to be devoted to pleasing each other. Paul finds this so much a necessity that it imposes on their ability to attend to the work of the Kingdom. Another take on it, however, might suggest to Paul that in marriage husbands and wives may better enable and support one another in their work for the Kingdom.

MEMORIAL MASS - VARKEY CHACKO

Please join us for a Memorial Mass celebrating Fr Jolly's dad's 40th day of remembrance on

Friday, 2nd February at 7:30pm

As a Parish Community of St John 23rd, let us all come together as one family to offer this Holy Mass for the repose of his soul.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

Light refreshments after the mass.

Please bring a plate for sharing.



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 <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
1st Fri	7:30pm Novena Mass <i>Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>

Exposition + Benediction

1st Fri	after 9.15am 7.30pm
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Reconciliation

After the weekday masses

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

Sun	12pm Baptism by appointment
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Prayers

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

Praise & Worship

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

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

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 18:15-20

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

R. If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 7:32-35

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:21-28

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

Real
authority



Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary:

Luisa Sanchez, Julietta Javeldsa

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. 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 Rosamma Elizabeth Langley, Virgie Villanueva Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Jo Daly, Gloria Bueno, John Pellissery, Carrie Conolly, Jovita Castillo, Jakov & Marija Franich, Elizabeth Candame, Adrian Gould, Manuel Sarris, Peter Dawson, Maryanne Jaramillo, Susanne Krajancic

Thanksgiving:

Richard & Valerie Pragasm, Anna Sebastian

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

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 Taizé

January Church Calendar

Mon	29	8:30am - Mass
Tues	30	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	31	Saint John Bosco (M) 9:15am - Mass
February		
Thurs	1	9:15am - Mass
Fri	2	The Presentation of the Lord (F) 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm—First Friday Novena Mass Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat	3	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	4	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

Join us for rosary and novena prayers every Tuesday, 7:00pm

For the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home, please contact Bart Sarlabus bart.sarlabus@gmail.com or Melva Paguinto emcipi85@yahoo.com.au.

Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.

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

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	available	Jacob	Shalini	
Apr	2	9	16	23	30
	Festejo	Vasram	Sebastian	Ring	available
May	7	14	21	28	
	available	Sebastian	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 other people in the parish?
- ? Want a space where you can invite your family and friends into the parish community?

St 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 ☺

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.

⇒ MUSIC MINISTRY

If your passion is music and are interested 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



We still have aprons for sale \$30.00
Please contact Techie on
0438 201436 or the parish office for orders.
Proceeds goes to our church funds

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

If you wish to donate flowers for the altar, please phone James David on 0413 787 596



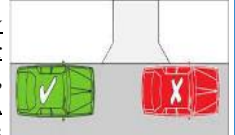
John McCabe
Karen Green
Julian Martin
Suni Fernando

Mei Velasco
Ajith Lobo
Helen Festejo
Rebecca Reynolds

DRIVEWAY/CARPARK SAFETY

For everyone's safety, please park 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.



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.

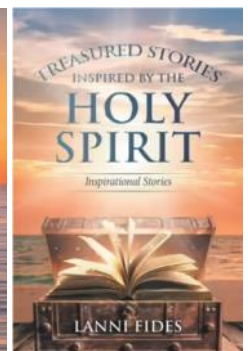
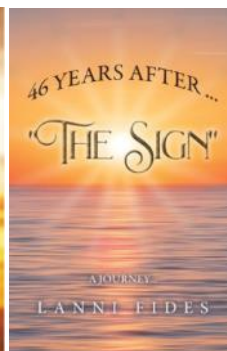
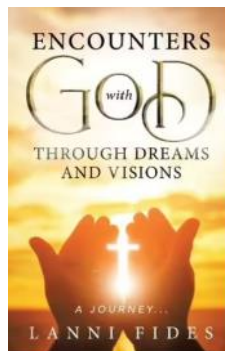
Book 2: 46 YEARS AFTER ... "THE SIGN" - author's remarkable revelation of her inspiring life story on faith, love, marriage, family, and purpose in life.

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



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.

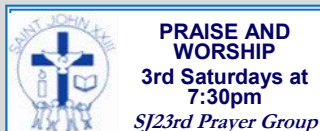
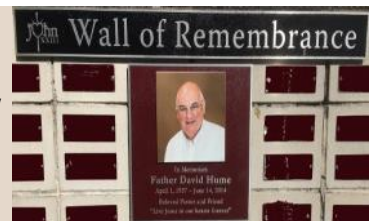


MEMORIAL WALL

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



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**



11th February 2024

after the morning masses

Come and enjoy delicious savoury and sweet fare.

If interested to assist or would like to make some food contribution please contact Madeleine Huang via email

cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY



For all youth ministry enquiries

✉ blaze@john23rd.org.au

or visit our FB page

www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/

REGISTRATION FORM

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

Blaze is a youth group, Yrs 4 - 12, with the mission of creating a space for teens to learn, grow, serve and live out our Catholic faith. We facilitate the understanding and growth of our faith through various activities exploring the catholic perspective on a variety of themes such as social issues, teen challenges and faith-related topic.

Join us for a fun night filled with music, games, discussion, prayer and of course pizza. BLAZE youth session runs from 7:15 to 9pm and is held every second Friday throughout the school term in the St John XXIII school hall.

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

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.bcglenwood.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

Youth Coordinator	Asst Youth Coordinator	Youth Leaders		
Amanda Lee 0413 545 318	Caitlin Green 0425 579 594	Taylor Coutinho Natasha Surjanto	Charlotte Todhunter Anna 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

MASS

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/index.cfm?id=34771>

The Sacrifice of the Eucharist as the central act of worship of the Catholic Church. The "Mass" is a late form of *missio* (sending), from which the faithful are sent to put into practice what they have learned and use the graces they have received in the Eucharistic liturgy.

As defined by the Church at the Council of Trent, in the Mass, "The same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross, is present and offered in an unbloody manner." Consequently, the Mass is a truly propitiatory sacrifice, which means that by this oblation "the Lord is appeased, He grants grace and the gift of repentance, and He pardons wrongdoings and sins, even grave ones. For it is one and the same victim. He who now makes the offering through the ministry of priests and he who then offered himself on the cross. The only difference is the manner of offering" (Denzinger 1743).

The Mass cannot be understood apart from Calvary, of which it is a re-presentation, memorial, and effective application of the merits gained by Christ.

The re-presentation means that because Christ is really present in him humanity, in heaven and on the altar, he is capable now as he was on Good Friday of freely offering himself to the Father. He can no longer die because he now has a glorified body, but the essence of his oblation remains the same.

The Mass is also a memorial. Christ's death is commemorated not only as a psychological remembrance but as a mystical reality. He voluntarily offers himself, the eternal high priest, as really as he did on Calvary.

The Mass is, moreover, a sacred banquet or paschal meal. The banquet aspect of the Mass is the reception of Holy Communion by the celebrant and the people, when the same Christ who offers himself to the Father as a sacrifice then gives himself to the faithful as their heavenly food. It was this fact that inspired the Holy See, after the Second Vatican Council, to restore the practice of receiving Communion under both kinds for all the faithful: "The entire tradition of the Church teaches that the faithful participate more perfectly in the Eucharistic celebration through sacramental Communion. By Communion, in fact, the faithful share more fully in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In this way they are not limited to sharing in the sacrifice by faith and prayer, nor to merely spiritual communion with Christ offered on the altar, but receive Christ himself sacramentally, so as to receive more fully the fruits of this most holy sacrifice. In order that the fullness of the sign in the Eucharistic banquet may be seen more clearly by the faithful, the Second Vatican Council prescribed that in certain cases, to be decided by the Holy See, the faithful could receive Holy Communion under both species" (*Sacramentali Communionem*, June 29, 1970).

Finally the Mass is the divinely ordained means of applying the merits of Calvary. Christ won for the world all the graces it needs for salvation and sanctification. But these blessings are conferred gradually and continually since Calvary and mainly through the Mass. Their measure of conferral is in proportion to the faith and loving response of the faithful who unite themselves in spirit with the Mass.

It is in this sense that the Mass is an oblation of the whole Mystical Body, head and members. Yet, among the faithful, some have been ordained priests and their role in the Mass is essentially different from that of the laity. The priest is indispensable, since he alone by his powers can change the elements of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Nevertheless the role of the participants is of great importance; not as though there would be no Mass without a congregation but because the people's "full, active and conscious participation will involve them in both body and soul and will inspire them with faith, hope and charity." The more active this participation, the more glory is given to God and the more grace is

bestowed not only on the Church but on all the members of the human race.

(*Etym. Latin missa, from mittere, to send; so called from the words of dismissal at the end of the service: Ite, missa est, "Go, [the congregation] is dismissed."*)



Why do Catholics call their main church services "Mass"?

It is a strange word in English, and doesn't adequately describe what takes place.

Catholics can have a weird vocabulary sometimes. When a Catholic needs to look up times for church services on Sunday they will look up "Mass Times." Parishes also list Daily Masses, and Masses for Holy Days of Obligation. Even Catholic weddings and funerals most often take place as part of a Mass. For the cradle Catholic, this will be a no-brainer, but for the outsider, the word "Mass" can seem like strange jargon.

What does Mass mean and why do Catholics use the word?

The English word "Mass" comes from the Latin word *missa*, which means to be "sent." This Latin word has been used since the 6th or 7th century to describe the Catholic celebration of the Eucharist, our main liturgical service. The word is used during the conclusion of the celebration, when the priest or deacon says in Latin, *Ite, missa est*.

The literal translation of that phrase is, "Go, it has been sent." Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote a commentary on these words and explained in his *Summa Theologiae*, "And from this the Mass derives its name ... the deacon on festival days 'dismisses' the people at the end of the Mass, by saying: 'Ite, missa est,' that is, the victim [Jesus] has been sent to God through the angel, so that it may be accepted by God."

Pope Benedict XVI also expanded on these words in his encyclical *Sacramentum Caritatis*, but focused on a different spiritual meaning behind the phrase. He wrote, "In antiquity, *missa* simply meant 'dismissal.' However in Christian usage it gradually took on a deeper meaning. The word 'dismissal' has come to imply a 'mission.' These few words succinctly express the missionary nature of the Church. The People of God might be helped to understand more clearly this essential dimension of the Church's life, taking the dismissal as a starting-point."

Instead of seeing the words of the priest or deacon as a conclusion to the celebration, Pope Benedict saw them as a beginning. He made that abundantly clear when he developed new words for the dismissal at Mass. Pope Benedict approved the phrases, "*Ite ad Evangelium Domini annuntiandum* (Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord)" and "*Ite in pace, glorificando vita vestra Dominum* (Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life)." Both of these dismissals focus on the missionary character of the Mass and how those in the pew are meant to go out in the world, sustained by the Eucharist they just received.

Viewed in this framework, the "Mass" is not just a single celebration on a Sunday or weekday or feast day, but a starting-point for a lifelong journey of Christian witness. The priest, in the place of Christ, sends forth his parishioners into the world so that they may be beacons of light, set on a hill for all to see.

<https://aleteia.org/2017/08/24/why-do-catholics-call-their-main-church-services-mass/>



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Mary Gale
T: (02) 8838 3456
E: 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 Marlon St, Blacktown 2148	SESSIONS	PENRITH (Thursdays 7.00pm) St Nicholas of Myra Parish Entry Via Higgins St, Penrith 2750
<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:
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parracatholic.org/office-for-worship

CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

Office Contacts

☎ (02) 8883 5981

(AH Emergency)

📞 0423 160567

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 (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:

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