

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.

Each year this Sunday's first reading is an episode in Abraham's life (Gen 12:1-4, excerpts from 22:1-19 and 15:5-18 in years A, B, C respectively), and the gospel is of the transfiguration. This use of the account of the transfiguration became important in late antiquity as part of the program of preparation of catechumens for baptism at Easter, but why does our Lectionary persistently juxtapose it with Abraham? A closer look at the given forms of the Abraham stories reveals a common thread—God's promise to make Abraham a great nation (year A), his descendants as numerous as the stars or grains of sand (B), and his descendants to number as the stars (C). In two we find that all tribes (A) or nations (B) of the earth shall bless themselves by Abraham (A) or by his descendants (B). The juxtaposition is oriented to presenting Jesus as the fulfilment not only of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) but as the surprising fulfilment of the promises to Abraham who now has in Jesus, by faith, descendants from all nations.

By a linguistic oddity today's Abraham story (Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18) may be called The Sacrifice of Abraham, as we have it in the First Eucharistic Prayer, or The Sacrifice of Isaac, as it often is in art, but the Jewish tradition has it is The Binding of Isaac. It is an unsettling story, depending on how it is interpreted, since it indicates child-sacrifice. It thus becomes fodder for atheist critics who read it literally in the worst of fundamentalist approaches to Scripture. These Genesis stories are not for those given to reading Scripture with absolute certainty, nor from the limitations of any particular translation—all translations miss something; there are simply too many greys in the redaction layers across the oral and written traditions for any claim to certainty. Thus, for example, v.2 may be read "Take now your son, the only one whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer/raise/exalt [alah] him there as an offering [olah] on one of the mountains I tell you." At least one rabbinic tradition notes that Abraham is told to offer/exalt Isaac not sacrifice/slaughter [zava] him. In others, Isaac is presented as active, not passive, and is willing to be offered.

There are too many such layers to explore here, but we should note the storyline's characters, which in this genre may even be inanimate objects. In the full story, which may be read at the Easter Vigil, the characters are, in order of appearance: God, Abraham the father, Isaac the son, the mountain, the ass and two servants, wood, the altar, the unmentioned fetters, the knife, an angel, and the ram. Today's short form omits Isaac carrying the wood up the mountain and his being bound, the factors so important to ancient Christian teaching which held the mountain to prefigure Calvary; Isaac the son, Jesus the Son; the wood, the Cross; the binding fetters, the fixing nails. These factors are important for the reading at the Easter Vigil with its connection to the crucifixion, but their omission today indicates another concern here.

The gospel account's characters are Jesus, three disciples, the mountain, his clothes, brightness, Elijah, Moses, cloud and shadow, and the voice. The mountain links to today's Abraham story. By tradition Abraham's mountain is identified with Jerusalem's Temple Mount, but the thematic links to the crucifixion allow an association with nearby Calvary. Common to what unfolds on each height is theophany. The two stories have other links that the above notes should help



identify. First, Isaac the son is the beloved of his father, and the transfiguration's voice affirms that Jesus is the beloved Son. Second, in a contrast, Abraham is told to offer/exalt his son, but Jesus is indeed transfigured (glorified, exalted). [The overlapping nuances of verbs offer, glorify, exalt, raise, and lift up are too extensive to cover here, but compare 2 Cor 3:18, one of only four instances of the verb transfigure (metamorphoō) in the New Testament, the other two being Matthew 17:2 and Romans 12:2; see also the reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Lent B.] Thus the offering that obedient Abraham assented to but could not complete was done by God the Father, and what the willing Isaac could not achieve is accomplished in Jesus, raised or exalted on the cross and raised to life, in whom peoples of all nations are blessed.

### Church Painting and Repair of the Cracked Ceiling

There is a great need to repair the cracked ceiling and repaint the interior and external of our church. We have received a number of quotes and the best option is selected.

The total cost of the project is \$30,000. We have raised 20% of the total cost; We still need to raise another \$24,000.

This is critical so as to prevent bigger damage to the church and it will have a better appearance.

If you are able to assist with a big or small contributions, it will be greatly appreciated.

We start the work on the 26th February.

**Finance Committee & Maintenance**

### 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

<b>Mon</b>	8:30am
<b>Tues-Fri</b>	9:15am
<b>Sat</b>	9.00am, 6pm Vigil
<b>Sun</b>	7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm
<b>Holy Cross Primary School</b>	
<b>Wed</b>	9:15am during school days

### Masses of Devotion

<b>1st Tues</b>	7.30pm Novena Mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
<b>Friday</b>	7.00pm Stations of the Cross and Mass at 7.30pm

### Exposition + Benediction

<b>1st Fri</b>	after 9.15am
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### Reconciliation

**After the weekday masses**

<b>Sat</b>	after the 9am mass <i>until 10.30am</i> 5:15 - 5:45pm <i>before the Vigil Mass or upon request</i>
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### Sacraments

<b>Sun</b>	12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i>
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### Prayers

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

### Praise & Worship

<b>Fri</b>	7:30pm Risen Lord Comm
<b>3rd Sat</b>	7:30pm SJ23rd Prayer Grp

### Special Blessings

**Blessing during masses**

<b>1st Sun</b>	Birthday celebrants
<b>3rd Sun</b>	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

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

### First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

115:10, 15-19

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34

*God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

cf Matthew 17:5

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-10

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

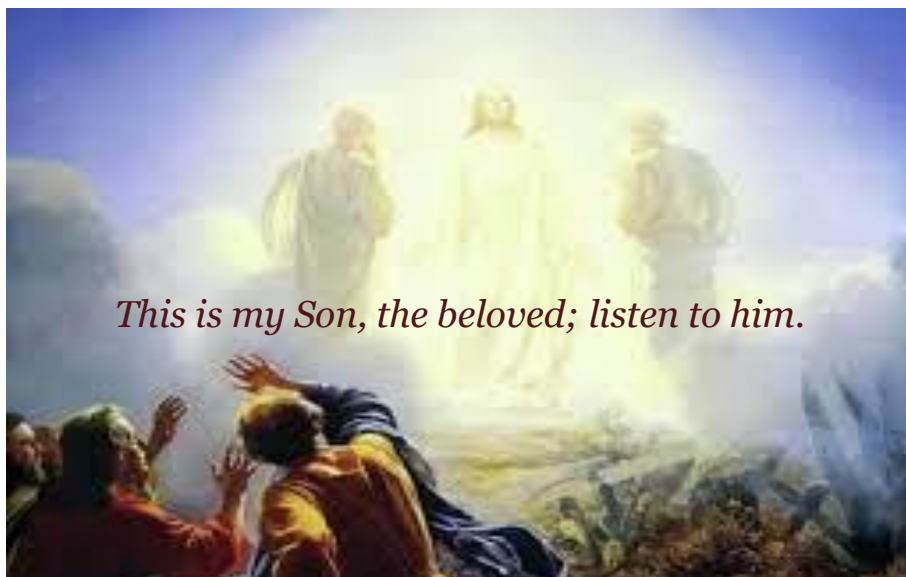
As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

## Special Intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Adrian Gould, Eddie Santillan, Michael Norris  
Mario Ackerman

### Anniversary:

Candelaria Zozobrado, Paguita Tagalog

### 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.*

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

### Thanksgiving:

Ravi & Bernadette Virwani & family

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 love, by your Holy Spirit you are always present. Your presence is invisible but you live in the midst of our souls, even when we do not realize it.

*Brother Roger of Taizé*

## 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](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com) or Melva Paguinto [emcipi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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

Feb	6	13	20	27	
	<i>Gan</i>	<i>Ring</i>	<i>Tina B</i>	Meena	
Mar	5	12	19	26	
	<i>Cruz</i>	Dennis	Jacob	Shalini	
Apr	2	9	16	23	30
	<i>Festejo</i>	Vasram	Sebastian	Ring	Lali
May	7	14	21	28	
	<i>Shalini</i>	Sebastian	Shanti	Gan	
Jun	4	11	18	25	
	<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?

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 ☺**

### February Church Calendar

Mon	26	8:30am - Mass
Tues	27	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary & Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	28	9:15am - Mass
Thurs	29	9:15am - Mass

### March

Fri	1	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm—Station of the Cross Followed by Novena Mass to The Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat	2	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Vigil Mass
Sun	3	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

We would like to thank Garsi, from Climate Airconditioning, for his time and generosity in fixing our air conditioners at the presbytery, church kitchen and the parish office.

Again, thank you.

Fr Jolly



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:neil.mas@gmail.com)



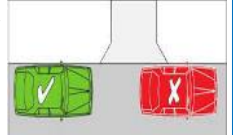
John McCabe  
Karen Green  
Julian Martin  
Suni Fernando

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.

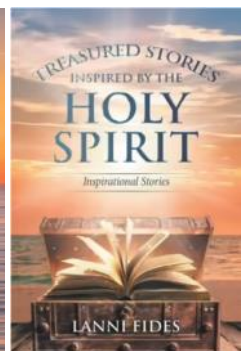
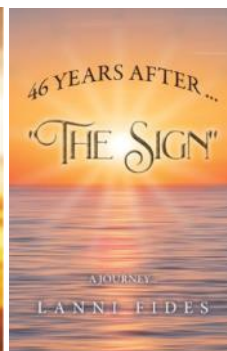
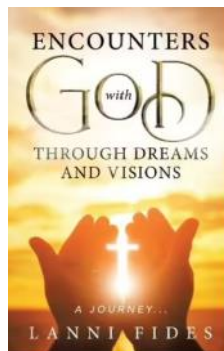
Book 2: 46 YEARS AFTER ... "THE SIGN" - author's remarkable revelation of her inspiring life story on faith, love, marriage, family, and purpose in life.

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](http://amazon.com.au) / search lanni fides books or order directly from the author via email on [lynpangi@outlook.com](mailto:lynpangi@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](http://www.lannifides.com.au)



### FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

If you wish to donate flowers for the altar, please contact James David on 0413 787596



"Lent is a time to focus on prayer, to open our hearts and minds to God who loves us."

YOU are invited to experience God's Peace and Love by slowing down and reflecting in a small group each week.

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING at 7 pm at the Parish staff meeting room.

Call Pauline on 0407417039 for any inquiries.

### 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.

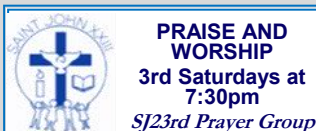
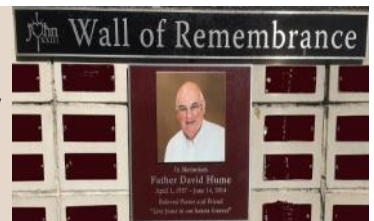
For further information please contact the Parish Office.

### 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](mailto:columbarium@john23rd.org.au)

The plaques cost \$500.00



## 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**



**Stations of the Cross**  
7:00pm followed by Mass  
Come and join us as we  
prepare for our journey  
through Lent



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER GATHERING

**Friday 1st March at 6pm,**

St John XXIII Church, Stanhope Gardens,  
everyone is welcome.

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can join in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression. **For further details go to [www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org](http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org).**

### TO THE SENIORS OF OUR PARISH

**Come and join!** "Young at Hearts Seniors Club" invites you to join in a special presentation on **"Demystifying Dementia"** led by Donna Ward, Community Engagement and program Director, Group Homes Australia (GHA), who will be sharing valuable insights and a deeper understanding of dementia.

You'll also learn how to reduce risk factors and gain practical tips and strategies to support your loved ones and others in the Community to live well with dementia.

Following mass and morning tea,

**WHEN:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March  
10.15am-11.30am

**WHERE:** Catholic Parish of St John 23<sup>rd</sup>

To register, (after the 16<sup>th</sup> of February) please contact either Frank 0459 504625 email [frank.coleiro@gmail.com](mailto:frank.coleiro@gmail.com) or Trevor on 0407 150399



## YOUTH MINISTRY

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



**For all youth ministry enquiries**

✉ [blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au)

Follow us

[www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/](https://www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/)

<https://www.instagram.com/blazeyouthsj23>

**REGISTRATION FORM**

BLAZE youth group is an initiative from Stanhope Parish to encourage community amongst the youth. It is a space for encouragement and open faith talk. Our sessions focus on one relevant theme each term. We start the night with casual conversation and dinner followed by games and then a faith-based talk, concluding with a discussion.

We encourage all youth from Year 7 to Year 12 to join in on the fun, meet like-minded people and gain a deeper understanding of their faith.

Sessions run from 7pm to 9pm every second Friday throughout the school term starting at St John XXIII College, C block.

If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at [blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au)

## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Louise O'Donnell

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au](http://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](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au)

Youth Coordinator	Asst Youth Coordinator	Youth Leaders		
Amanda Lee 0413 545 318	Caitlin Green 0425 579 594	Taylor Coutinho Natasja Surjanto Brendan Weber	Charlotte Todhunter Anna Todhunter	Johnathan Soosaipillai Earl Carvalho

## MORE YOUTH GROUPS

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

## 10 Things You Need to Know About Jesus' Transfiguration

What happened at the mysterious event known as the Transfiguration? What did it mean?

Here are 10 things you need to know.

### 1. What does the word “transfiguration” mean?

The word “transfiguration” comes from the Latin roots trans- (“across”) and figura (“form, shape”). It thus signifies a change of form or appearance.

This is what happened to Jesus in the event known as the Transfiguration: His appearance changed and became glorious.

Before looking at the Transfiguration itself, it's important that we look at what happened immediately before it in Luke's Gospel.

### 2. What happened right before the Transfiguration?

In Luke 9:27, at the end of a speech to the 12 apostles, Jesus adds, enigmatically:

*There are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.*

This has often been taken as a prophecy that the end of the world would occur before the first generation of Christians died out.

The phrase “kingdom of God” can also refer to other things, though, including the Church — the outward expression of God's invisible kingdom.

The kingdom is embodied in Christ himself and thus might be “seen” if Christ were to manifest it in an unusual way, even in his own earthly life.

### 3. Did such a manifestation occur?

Yes, and it is the very next thing that Luke relates: the Transfiguration.

Pope Benedict states that it has been...

*...convincingly argued that the placing of this saying immediately before the Transfiguration clearly relates it to this event.*

*Some—that is to say, the three disciples who accompany Jesus up the mountain—are promised that they will personally witness the coming of the Kingdom of God 'in power.'*

*On the mountain the three of them see the glory of God's Kingdom shining out of Jesus. On the mountain they are overshadowed by God's holy cloud. On the mountain—in the conversation of the transfigured Jesus with the Law and the Prophets—they realize that the true Feast of Tabernacles has come. On the mountain they learn that Jesus himself is the living Torah, the complete Word of God. On the mountain they see the 'power' (dynamis) of the Kingdom that is coming in Christ (Jesus of Nazareth, vol. 1, p. 317).*

We thus may have the key to understanding Jesus' mysterious statement just before the Transfiguration. He wasn't talking about the end of the world. He was talking about this.

In fact, Luke notes that the Transfiguration took place “about eight days after these sayings,” thus stressing its proximity to them and suggesting that it was the fulfillment of this saying, concerning the fact that some of them would see the kingdom of God. Mark gives a different number of days, saying it was “after six days” (Mark 9:2), but these both approximate a week.

### 4. Who witnessed the Transfiguration?

The three who are privileged to witness the event are Peter, James and John, the three core disciples. (Andrew was not there or not included.)

The fact that Jesus only allowed three of his disciples to witness the event may have sparked the discussion which swiftly ensued about which of the disciples was the greatest (Luke 9:46).

### 5. Where did the Transfiguration take place?

Luke states that Jesus took the three “on the mountain to pray.”

This mountain is often thought to be Mount Tabor in Israel, but none of the gospels identify it precisely.

### 6. Why did the Transfiguration take place?

The Catechism explains it this way:

*Christ's Transfiguration aims at strengthening the apostles' faith in anticipation of his Passion: the ascent onto the 'high mountain' prepares for the ascent to Calvary.*

*Christ, Head of the Church, manifests what his Body contains and radiates in the sacraments: 'the hope of glory' [CCC 568].*

### 7. What does Luke (in particular) tell us about this event?

Luke mentions several details about the event that the other evangelists do not:

- He notes that this happened while Jesus was praying.
- He mentions that Peter and his companions “were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.”
- He mentions that Peter made his suggestion to put up booths as Moses and Elijah were departing.

### 8. Why do Moses and Elijah appear on the mountain?

Moses and Elijah represent the two principal components of the Old Testament: the Law and the Prophets.

The fact that these two figures “spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem” illustrates that the Law and the Prophets point forward to the Messiah and his sufferings.

This foreshadows Jesus' own explanation, on the road to Emmaus, of the Scriptures pointing to himself (cf. Luke 24:27, 32).

### 9. Why was Peter's suggestion misguided?

The fact that Peter's suggestion occurs when Moses and Elijah are preparing to depart reveals a desire to prolong the experience of glory. This means Peter is focusing on the wrong thing.

The experience of the Transfiguration is meant to point forward to the sufferings Jesus is about to experience. It is meant to strengthen the disciples' faith, revealing to them in a powerful way the divine hand that is at work in the events Jesus will undergo. This is why Moses and Elijah have been speaking “about his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

Peter misses the point and wants to stay on the mountain, contrary to the message the two heavenly visitors have been expounding.

As a seeming rebuke of this, a theophany occurs: “A cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’”

### 10. What can we learn from this event?

The Transfiguration was a special event in which God allowed certain apostles to have a privileged spiritual experience that was meant to strengthen their faith for the challenges they would later endure. But it was only a temporary event. It was not meant to be permanent.

In the same way, at certain times in this life, God may give certain members of the faithful (not all of the faithful, all the time), special experiences of his grace that strengthen their faith.

We should welcome these experiences for the graces they are, but we should not expect them to continue indefinitely, nor should we be afraid or resentful when they cease.

They may have been meant only as momentary glimpses of the joy of heaven to sustain us as we face the challenges of this life, to help strengthen us on the road that will — ultimately — bring us into the infinite and endless joy of heaven.

<https://www.ncregister.com/blog/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-jesus-transfiguration>





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**Celebrating Holy Week: Formation for Ministers of the Altar: 9 March**

Celebrating Holy Week- a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar will be held on Saturday 9 March 2024, 9:30 – 3:00 PM by the Office for Worship at the Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St Blacktown (formerly known as the IFM). To register or for more information, please contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or call 8838 3456 by 5 March 2024.

DATE: Saturday, 9 March

LOCATION: Bishop Bede Heather Centre  
1-5 Marion St Blacktown

TIME: 9.30am

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DATE: Friday, 15 March

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TIME: Doors open 7pm

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