

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.

**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.

**Gospel Reflection**

The Lectionary takes us back to the very beginning of Luke's gospel, to the introductory address to "your Excellency" Theophilus – friend or lover of God, or even beloved of God. We cannot know whether Theophilus, an actual name, was an actual person or is a polite reference to the reader. It does not hurt for preachers to think of each listener as the friend of God.

This Sunday each year begins a programmatic reading of our Lord's public ministry that lasts until the end of November, with of course a detour for Lent and Easter. Matthew and Mark both testify to Jesus proclaiming at the beginning "The Kingdom of Heaven/God is near". Luke takes us back to Nazareth instead, to the Synagogue where Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 to announce the year of favour, a passage understood to point to Leviticus 25:10-13 that describes the Jubilee. We must wait until next Sunday to hear of the following reaction to his teaching on it. Matthew and Mark have a similar scene set in "his own country", but much later in the story. Only Luke has it in this precise form and place, and it needs to be understood as an expansive equivalent of Matthew's and Mark's opening proclamation "The Kingdom of Heaven/God is near"; here Jesus says, in effect, this prophesy is even now being fulfilled.

The episode is read annually at the Chrism Mass in conjunction with the Isaiah pericope that otherwise appears only in Advent in Year B. Instead duplicating that combination today the Lectionary gives us Nehemiah's account of the reaffirmation of the covenant during the post-exilic restoration of Jerusalem – which is actually the subject of the full passage from Isaiah 61. The reaffirmation was conducted by Ezra the priest reading the Law, its contents then being made clear, or translated and interpreted so all could understand. He did as Jesus would do in the synagogue – as we are to do in our liturgies with the homily breaking open the readings it follows.

Jesus declared Isaiah's passage was being fulfilled there and then. He had no legal authority to declare the nationwide Jubilee, so we must interpret it as already indicating another kind, or as pertaining to another realm. The Jubilee practice reset property ownership and debt. Since on entering the Holy Land all were made equal sharers in the land within their tribes, how is it that later some have more land than others, or that some were even dispossessed? No society and economic system is perfect, and complexities in primarily

agricultural societies gradually lead to the shift of the originally shared wealth, some losing direct access to land, becoming labourers for others. The Jubilee cancels spiralling debt and restores land distribution. One can imagine just how disagreeable such a proposal may be to those who are wealthy, especially if so not by nefarious means but through the inheritance of wealth accumulated over the generations courtesy of an imperfect economy. But the Jubilee proclaimed by Jesus is not imposed from on high; it emerges with the Kingdom from the grass roots level, freely enacted by the people who seek the Kingdom.

Each society and economy has its flaws, and produces its own inequalities, so the Jubilee work will never end, even as we strive constantly to redress them. There will always be dispossessed, to whom the active missionary work of mercy must be directed. This does not mean simply giving things in temporary assistance, which maintains the status quo, but striving to improve the situation itself. In this "year of Luke" there will be many reminders of his particular concern for the dispossessed and the fringe-dwellers, and so while a true reset of land ownership will never be achieved, we in Australia need to be particularly attentive to the dispossession of this land's first nations peoples.

A jarring note arises from the use of Nehemiah: the restoration was exclusionary; it cast off those who had impure ancestry and rebuffed the welcoming Samaritans thus setting up centuries of animosity between the two peoples. The Second Temple period it inaugurated was by no means universally exclusivist, and Christianity emerged from or was shaped by inclusivist strands. As our gospels make clear, perhaps Luke most clearly, the mission of Jesus is to all.

**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**
- Wed** 9:15am *during school days*
- 2nd Sat** 7:30pm Indonesian Mass

**Masses of Devotion**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tues** 7.30pm Novena Mass  
*Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
- 1<sup>st</sup> Fri** 7:30pm Novena Mass  
*Sacred Heart of Jesus*

**Exposition + Benediction**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Special Blessings**

- Blessing during masses**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun** Birthday celebrants
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** Wedding anniversaries

**For further updates on parish activities**

<http://john23rd.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish>

**If you want to be part of our mailing list please email**

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

## CONTACTS

### PARISH OFFICE

#### Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

#### Office Contacts

☎ (02) 8883 5981

(AH Emergency)

☎ 0434 033 326

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](mailto:jolly@john23rd.org.au)

☎ 0417 541 637 (emergency only)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Menard Gaspi

✉ [menard.gaspi@parracatholic.org](mailto:menard.gaspi@parracatholic.org)

### STAFF

#### Secretary:

Tanya Gatt

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

#### Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

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

#### Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

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

### OTHER CONTACTS

#### Parish Council:

John McCabe

✉ [johnmccabe5@gmail.com](mailto:johnmccabe5@gmail.com)

#### Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

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

#### Columbarium queries:

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

### Never miss our Bulletin

If you would like to be included in  
our mailing list

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

### NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish  
community!

Please take a welcome pack from  
the church foyer

Visit our website

<http://john23rd.com/>

Like our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/john23rdparish](http://www.facebook.com/john23rdparish)

### COELIACS

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

### HOMEBOUND

Homebound and would like to  
receive Holy Communion please  
contact the parish office or send  
text message to Rose Franco on  
0401 387427



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/>

## Praying together

*Praying together provides a lot of benefits like strengthening our faith and uniting hearts in our community. Join us and enrich your faith and let the Holy Spirit come to you.*

### NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer

*O Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke thy most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying. O Purest Mary, O Sweetest Mary, let thy name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, O Blessed Lady, to help me whenever I call on thee, for, in all my needs, in all my temptations I shall never cease to call on thee, ever repeating thy sacred name, Mary, Mary.*

*O what consolation, what sweetness, what confidence, what emotion fill my soul when I pronounce thy sacred name, or even only think of thee. I thank God for having given thee, for my good, so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely pronouncing thy name: let my love for thee prompt me ever to hail thee, Mother of Perpetual Help. (Then say three Hail Marys).*



Rosary and novena prayers  
every Tuesday at 7:00PM and

**Novena mass every**

**First Tuesday 7:30pm**

please contact either

Techie Sarlabus [techie.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:techie.sarlabus@gmail.com) or

Melva Paguinto [emcipi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emcipi85@yahoo.com.au)

for the opportunity of having the statue of Our  
Lady visit your home, and be included in a roster  
below.

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

If you would like to invite Fr Jolly or Fr Menard to  
join you in prayers at home, please organise with  
the parish office.

### Rosary Statue Family Roster

Jan	7	14	21	28	
	Gan	Ruggiero	Barnouti	Tanganan	
Feb	4	11	18	25	
	Loreta	Sebastian	Baluyut	Ruggiero	
Mar	4	11	18	25	
	Paguinto	Hala	Lali	Barnouti	
Apr	1	8	15	22	29
	Deang	Available	Sebastian	Available	Jacob
May	6	13	20	27	
	Dennis	Sebastian	Available	Available	

*"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"*

### HOLY HOUR

Spend an hour in prayer and meditation with  
the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday  
at 8:00PM**



### NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Novena Mass to Our Sacred Heart of Jesus  
every first Friday of each month at 7:30PM  
with exposition and adoration of the  
Blessed Sacrament.

### PRAYING in the SILENCE of the HEART

*with Brother Roger of Taizé*

Holy Spirit, enable us to turn toward you at  
every moment. We so often forget that you  
are dwelling in us, that you are praying in us,  
that you are loving in us. Our presence in us  
is trust and constant forgiveness.

## 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.

To help with the planning/budgeting of church expenses, we have a Planned Giving Program.  
We encourage parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions as alternative  
to an envelope system. Support can be provided via the registration forms are available at the  
church foyer or from the website or scan the QR Code.

scan this



TapnGo machines available by the entrances.

## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### Ambrose Early Learning

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

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

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

### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Attila Lendvai

☎ (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: Frank Chiment

☎ (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)

### Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

### First Reading

*Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10*

*They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.*

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people - since he stood higher than all the people - Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 18:8-10, 15*

**R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

**The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. R.**

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **R.**



### Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27*

*Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.*

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*of Luke 4:18*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21*

*The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.*

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. he has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the down trodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Communion Antiphon

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Prayer is an essential aspect of Christian spirituality, serving as a means of communication and connection with God. It holds great significance for Christians, providing them with a way to express their gratitude, concerns, and requests to God. Although the answers to prayers may not always align with our desires, Christians are called to pray and trust in God's plan. In this article, we will explore the importance of prayer for Christians, the power it holds, what the Bible says about prayer, and different methods of prayer.

### The Importance of Prayer

1. **Obedience to God:** Christians are called to pray, as it is an act of obedience to God's command. Scripture encourages believers to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) and to bring their concerns to God (Colossians 4:2). By engaging in prayer, Christians demonstrate their willingness to align their lives with God's will.
2. **Communication with God:** Prayer serves as a means of opening a line of communication with God. It allows Christians to share their thoughts, emotions, and desires with Him. It is through prayer that believers can experience the presence of God and find comfort in knowing that He is listening.
3. **Joyful Moments and Times of Sorrow:** Christians are encouraged to pray at all times, whether in moments of joy or in times of sorrow. They can turn to God in times of celebration, expressing their gratitude and sharing their joys. Similarly, during periods of sadness or hardship, prayer becomes a source of solace and hope.
4. **Intercession for Others:** Prayer enables Christians to intercede on behalf of others. They can lift up their family, friends, strangers, and even enemies in prayer, showing love and care for others. Through intercessory prayer, Christians can make a positive impact on the lives of those around them.

### The Power of Prayer

1. **Opening the Conversation with God:** When Christians offer to pray for others, they are initiating a conversation with God on their behalf. Prayer has the power to bring comfort, lessen burdens, and provide a sense of peace. It allows believers to rely on God's strength and guidance in various situations.
2. **Strengthens Faith and Trust:** Engaging in prayer strengthens the faith and trust that Christians have in God. By expressing their concerns and desires to Him, they acknowledge their dependence on His wisdom and sovereignty. Through prayer, believers learn to surrender their worries and place their trust in God's plan.
3. **Bringing Others Closer to God:** Prayer has the ability to bring other people closer to God. When Christians pray for others, they demonstrate God's love and care, showing them the way to Christ. Through prayer, believers can serve as a channel for God's grace and compassion in the lives of those they pray for.
4. **Relinquishing Control to God:** As humans, Christians often try to handle situations on their own before turning to God. Prayer reminds them that they don't have to rely solely on their own strength and understanding. By surrendering their concerns to God in prayer, they acknowledge His control and trust in His perfect timing and plan.

### What the Bible Says about Prayer

The Bible, as the Word of God, provides guidance and encouragement regarding prayer. It assures Christians that they can approach God with confidence (1 John 5:14) and that He will listen to their prayers (Jeremiah 29:12). Scripture also emphasizes the importance of praying for everyone, including family, friends, strangers, and even enemies. Christians are called to pray for all people, without judgement or attempts to dictate how God should answer their prayers.

Prayer requires faith and trust in the Lord. Christians are encouraged to lay their burdens at His feet and trust Him to handle each situation according to His will. Whether the answer is yes, no, or not now, believers are called to have faith in God's plan and to pray in alignment with His purposes.

### Different Ways to Pray

Prayer can take various forms, and Christians can engage in different methods of prayer based on their preferences and circumstances. Here are a few examples:

1. **Praying Alone:** When alone, Christians can ask God to open their hearts and minds, inviting the Holy Spirit to fill them. They can focus their attention solely on the Lord, experiencing His presence and seeking His guidance.
2. **Reading Scripture:** The Bible contains numerous prayers that Christians can read and learn from. Christians can read Scripture aloud, either individually or with their families, creating a space for discussion and reflection. Choosing a dedicated time without distractions can enhance the experience of reading and understanding God's Word.
3. **ACTS Method:** Some individuals prefer using a structured method of prayer, such as the ACTS method. ACTS stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. In this approach, believers start by offering adoration and praise to God, thanking Him for His love, mercy, and forgiveness. They then confess their sins and ask for forgiveness, expressing gratitude for God's grace. The next step involves thanking God for His blessings and expressing gratitude for His constant presence. Finally, supplication allows Christians to make their requests known to God, trusting Him to answer in His way and timing.
4. **Reading Prayers:** Many online and print articles and devotions include prayers at the end. Christians can read these prayers, using them as a conclusion to their own prayers or as an invitation to deepen their relationship with God. These prayers can serve as a source of inspiration and guidance.
5. **Starting a Prayer Journal:** Keeping a prayer journal can help Christians remember the people and situations they are praying for. It provides an opportunity to rejoice when prayers are answered and reflect on God's faithfulness. Christians can record the date for each prayer and note the answers as they come, finding encouragement in God's response.

### 10 Reasons Why Prayer is Important for Christians

1. **Opens Communication with God:** Prayer allows Christians to communicate and connect with God.
2. **Strengthens Faith and Trust:** Engaging in prayer strengthens Christians' faith and trust in God.
3. **Brings Others Closer to God:** Prayer can serve as an example and encouragement for others to draw closer to God.
4. **Act of Obedience:** Prayer is an act of obedience to God's command.
5. **Intercession for Others:** Through prayer, Christians can intercede on behalf of others, showing love and care.
6. **Shows the Way to Christ:** Prayer can be a means of guiding others to a relationship with Christ.
7. **Brings Comfort and Peace:** Prayer provides comfort and peace in times of trouble and uncertainty.
8. **Relinquishes Concerns to God:** Through prayer, Christians can give their concerns and worries to God.
9. **Shows Care and Love:** Praying for others demonstrates care and love, reminding them that they are valued.
10. **Trust in God's Control:** Prayer reminds Christians that they don't need to worry because God is in control.

In conclusion, prayer holds immense importance in Christian spirituality. It serves as a means of communication and connection with God, allowing believers to express their gratitude, concerns, and requests. Prayer strengthens faith, brings comfort, and enables Christians to intercede on behalf of others. By engaging in prayer, believers demonstrate their obedience to God's command and trust in His plan. Christians can pray alone, in groups, or in various structured or spontaneous ways, finding solace and guidance in their conversations with God.

## Community Events



Building our Community  
**TOGETHER**

As a 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 and encourage our parish community to support these mini endeavour.

Any other suggestions for church fanfare, fundraising activities or just availability of support are most welcome and greatly appreciated. Please contact either Nanette - 0404 465600 or Techie - 0438 201436.



## Community



We will be holding a community yard sale. We are in the planning stage for this event.

Anyone interested to participate in this endeavour (as sellers) please contact:

Agnes on 0438 487 050  
Nanette on 0404 465 600

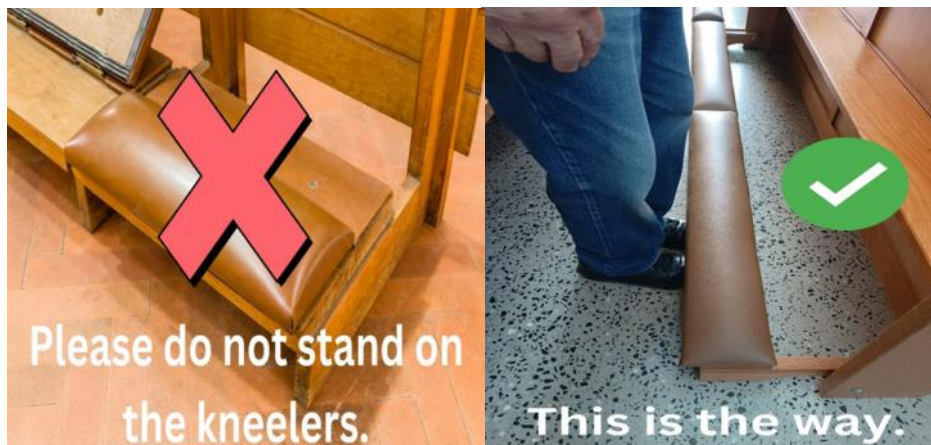
## January Calendar

Mon	27	8:30am - Mass
Tues	28	<i>Saint Thomas Aquinas (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm—Rosary prayers Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	29	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	30	9:15am - Mass
Fri	31	<i>Saint John Bosco (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass

## February

Sat	1	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	2	<i>The Presentation of the Lord (F)</i> 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

## LET'S LOOK AFTER OUR CHURCH PEWS



As a parishioner just like yourselves and on behalf of Fr Jolly Chacko, I wish to remind all, that we all have to care for the pews and kneelers in our church like we would care for the furniture in our own homes. Four of our church pew kneelers were recently damaged, misuse and lack of consideration, the obvious cause. They had to be repaired, thanks to the efforts of another of our fellow parishioners at a cost of his time, not to mention financial costs.

May I therefore suggest the following:

Please Lift and lower the pew kneelers gently with your hands and not your feet. This would prevent damage and eliminate operational noise during mass.

Please **DO NOT** place your feet or walk on the delicate cushioned kneelers so as not to damage them. Let's all instruct our children to do the same.

If the kneelers continue to be misused and damaged, there might be no other option but to remove them completely as repairs are difficult and expensive. We would then have the inconvenience of having to kneel on the hard floor during church services.

Fr Jolly appreciates your understanding and seeks your cooperation in the matter.

Thank you and God Bless

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.

⇒ **Grief and Bereavement Support Ministry. (Shalom)**

We are looking for members to be part of this ministry. Those who wish to be part of this great counselling and comforting ministry, please contact the parish office or have a quick chat with Fr Jolly. Workshop 8th February 10am - 3pm



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

**Special Intentions**

**Born to eternal life:**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Tricia Batongbacal

**Remembrances:**

**Anniversary:**

Rosario Hill, Cajetan Menezes

**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.*

Brian McCunnie, Geoff Roney, Emma Matoza, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Rosanna John Pellissery, Carlo Bueno, Maria Romeo, Christina Properzi, Froilan De Jesus, Cindy Dadvias, Jerry Bondoc, Lino Matteazi, Margaret Harrison, John Tipton, Manuel Sarris, Ksenija Bosnic, John Todhunter, Elizabeth Langley, Peter Dawson, Lucas Colleta Dudley Francis, Cathie Christie, Marilyn Nalapo Isagani Ocampo, Louise Smith, Charlie Busuttil, Carrie Conolly, Troy James, Geoffrey Robinson Joshua McCarrroll, Adrian Von Hart, Bev Lewis, Virginia Santos, LB Corpus, Raymond Lanzona Jonathan Gemin, Victor Pons, Perla Magculang, Peter McArdle, Hilary Regan, Florentina Elisura Jakob&Marija Franich, Jovita Castillo, Zoey Illic Jerwin McCarron, Valeria Laureta, Bev Osborn Obet Dionisio, Myrna Manalili, Natasha Leitao, Jude Newnes, Elsie Knapp, Barbara Thompson Helen West, Mary Phillips, Lenka Olivier Talija, Emma Q Fernando, Elizabeth Candame, Virginia Villanueva, Ben & Etta Benesa Brendan Prideaux, Tata Enad

**Thanksgiving:**

Wira Peiris

*If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in your home please contact the parish office.*

**ALPHA PROGRAM**

*I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them. ... The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.' Pope Francis - Evangelii Gaudium #3*



Register now - <https://tiny.cc/AlphaStJohnXXIII> Feel free to call Mei 0410 040 434 or email [mei.donnie.velasco@gmail.com](mailto:mei.donnie.velasco@gmail.com) for any queries.



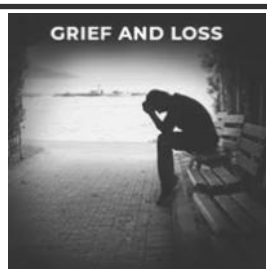
**FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH**

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

**Grief and Bereavement Workshop**

Father Jolly will be hosting a Grief and Bereavement Workshop on the **8th February 10am - 3pm at the church.**

Those who wish to be part of this great counselling and comforting ministry.



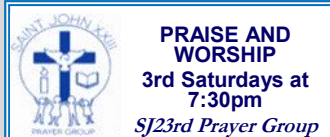
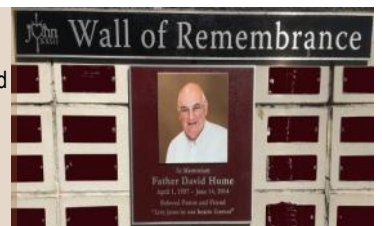
**COLUMBARIUM**

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 \$600.00

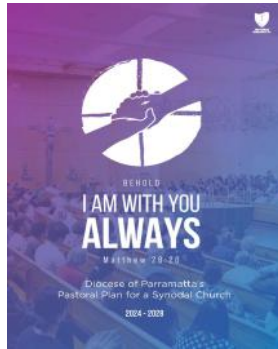




For more events please go to <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/> or <https://catholicoutlook.org/>

**From the Pastoral Plan 2024-2028: 'Behold, I Am With You Always'**

"The People of God have shared their hopes, fears, dreams and anxieties. These have now gained shape and form this Pastoral Plan. Our pastoral plan invites every person to become co-creators in the building up of the Kingdom of God. We take heart, trusting in God who loves us unconditionally and without limits, allowing the words of Jesus to echo in our hearts 'Behold, I am with you always' – Matthew 28:20." (Pg. 7, Diocesan Pastoral Plan).



Download your copy of the Plan at [www.parracatholic.org/synodality](http://www.parracatholic.org/synodality).

**HELP NEEDED - ELECTRICIAN**

We are looking for an electrician to replace the down lights on the Virgin Mary, we will supply the down lights, if you are able to assist your time to help please call the Parish Office on 8883 5981.



Thank you.

**Carpentry anyone?**

Fr Menard is looking for any carpenters in the parish. He has a little project for the Schools that requires some woodwork. Please see Father any time for more information. Thank you!



**LOOKING FOR**  
**YOUTH LEADERS**

**CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!**  
Email : [blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au)  
Instagram: @blazeyouthsj23

"Would you like to be a part of a fulfilling ministry, shaping the future of young Catholics?"

BLAZE Youth Group are looking for more youth leaders to help us run our sessions fortnightly!

If you would like to contact us, please feel free to do so via email or Instagram!

Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."

**YOUTH**



**BLAZE YOUTH**  
**WHO:** Year 7 to Year 12  
**WHEN:** 7:00 - 9:00pm  
**WHERE:** St John XXIII College (C Block Bell space)



Please use the QR code to register. For any queries please email on [blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au) or DM @blazeyouthsj23



**IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS**  
**WHO:** 18 - 35 years of age  
**WHEN:** First Sundays of the month  
**TIME:** 7:00 - 9:30pm  
**WHERE:** St John XXIII College Staffroom




Please use the QR Code to register for our sessions. For any queries please either email [ignite.stjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:ignite.stjohn23@gmail.com) or DM on @ignite\_sj23

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

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

**Indonesian Mass**  
 Every Second  
 Saturday, 7.30pm  
 St John 23<sup>rd</sup> Church



Please come and celebrate  
 The Eucharist together  
 in Bahasa (Indonesian Language)

**Risen Lord Community  
 Praise & Worship Night**



**7.30pm  
 FRIDAYS,  
 St John 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 College Hall**

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