

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

A quick word on the second reading: our Lectionary's translation that first Adam became a living soul and the last Adam (Christ) a life-giving spirit seems a little odd. How are soul and spirit different? The first is a quotation from Genesis 2:7 where the Hebrew has the peculiar word *nephesh* that does not always translate as soul as we tend to use it. In this instance it indicates the earthly body of clay that was lifeless until it received breath (spirit) from God. Consider our use of S.O.S – Save our souls – by which we really mean save our very physical selves. The risen Christ, on the other hand, is a heavenly body whose breath bestow life.

In the gospel, the mission announced in the synagogue in Nazareth on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time and now unfolding in Galilee, and as was indicated in last Sunday's beatitudes, points to a new order based on the ways of the Kingdom of God rather than those of the powerful of the world. The major part (verses 27-35) of today's reading expounds two principles or commands: 1) love your enemies (and do good to them); 2) give (not lend) to all who ask. The rhetorical construction has these mentioned three times, interspersed with examples and expansions, ending in the conveniently summarised third and final mention in verse 35. The first rule might be considered as two (love and do good) but they are variants of each other and are consistently kept together even as other elements are added in the expansions. Rereading the passage from the beginning with these two in mind makes things clearer.

It opens with Love your enemies – the only item repeated later verbatim. The following do good to those who hate you along with bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you are examples specifying how one might act well towards enemies, now described in increasing degrees of antipathy – those who merely hate, those who wish or speak harm, and those who do harm. The very specific example is then given of offering the other cheek to one who has struck you, an adaptation of Lamentations 3:30 in a passage not included in our Lectionary; it is used only in the Office of Readings, on Friday of week 23 in Ordinary Time, and so is little is encountered. That context raises two possibilities for interpreting this difficult saying: since in Lamentations the people and prophet are under punishment from God, the ill treatment by others is

accepted as part of the just punishment; and, sporadically Lamentations expresses the idea that when the punishment is over it will be God who metes out any punishment on the oppressors. The following advice not to withhold the tunic from the one who takes the cloak fits the pattern of turning the cheek, but seems also to be a segue to the next of the key rules: Give to everyone who asks. Then to conclude the first stating of these rules is Luke's version of the Golden Rule – as you wish to be treated, so also treat others – reminding us also that our actions are indeed our own, and how we are to act is not to be dictated by others' behaviour. Should we let another's actions dictate our own we turn from the ways of God who acts as he wills, that is according to his own principles.

Three examples then follow, in effect saying, if you act towards others only as they do to you, that is by limiting good deeds to those who are good to you, how are you any better than a sinner? In the structuring of these three examples it may appear that the first two, loving enemies and doing good, are distinct, but that is countered by the following summary iterating the first statements in brief: love your enemies and do good, and lend without expectation of return. Here now it should be noted that the verb give has changed to lend, but they need to be read as synonyms, for if you lend something with no expectation of it being returned you have indeed given it away; we do not have here a new rule, but a variant reiteration from the opening section. Importantly, we have a link back to the beatitudes' ending, your reward will be great, and, similar to the point made above, a direct connection to acting to like God who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

We may consider the next section to open with a reworking of the same point, evoking as it does the many utterances in the Hebrew scriptures of the article of faith, that God is merciful (or compassionate) and gracious (or kind), who is also patient and ready to forgive (see for example Exodus 34:6-7). This leads into another threefold set of degrees of acting that instead of being read separately may perhaps be linked in a way that admits of our own struggle to act like God: do not judge – but if you do, do not condemn – but if you do, forgive.

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

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

Exposition + Benediction

- 1st Fri** after 9.15am, 7.30pm

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

- Sun** 12pm Baptism *by appointment*

Prayers

- Mon** 7.30pm Christian Meditation
Frances Pegrarn 0417 406715
- Tue** 7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers (*Church Tabernacle*)
- Wed** 8:00pm Holy Hour
with Exposition & Benediction
- 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**
- 1st Sun** Birthday celebrants
- 3rd 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



Funeral for Deacon Rodrigo Rupac (Rudy)
St John XXIII Parish, Stanhope Gardens
Tuesday 25th February 2025
Viewing 10.00am
Funeral 11.00am
May he rest in peace.

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

☎ 0417 541 637 (emergency only)

Assistant Priest:

Fr Bartholomew Chukwu

✉ chukwu@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

Parish Council:

John McCabe

✉ johnmccabe5@gmail.com

Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ maintenance@john23rd.org.au

Columbarium queries:

✉ columbarium@john23rd.org.au

Never miss our Bulletin

If you would like to be included in our mailing list

✉ 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

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 or
Melva Paguinto 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

Month	4	11	18	25	
Feb	Loreta	Sebastian	Bahyut	Ruggiero	
Mar	Paguinto	Hala	Lali	Barnouti	
Apr	Deang	Available	Sebastian	Available	Jacob
May	Dennis	Sebastian	Available	Available	
June	Available	Available	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
God of compassion,
we praise you for the multitudes of women, men, young people, who, all over the world, seek to bear witness to peace, to reconciliation, to communion.

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 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

✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Attila Lendvai

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 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

🌐 www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repays us according to our faults. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR LENT—BEFORE IT ARRIVES

Don't blink. Lent will be here before you know it.

Isn't that how it always is? The Christmas season is behind us and it feels like Ordinary Time has only just begun—

But suddenly it's Ash Wednesday, and we're scrambling to decide what we're doing for Lent and wondering whether our choice of penance is too hard or too easy.

This year, don't let Lent take you by surprise—have your plan in place. Here's how.

How to Make a Plan for Lent

Before Ash Wednesday catches you unawares, make a point of sitting down—at the kitchen table, or at the chapel—and give some thought to how you want to spend this Lent.

If you have no idea where to begin, rest assured: there is a solid foundation to work from. The Church doesn't leave us to figure things out ourselves.

There are three holy practices which Catholics are called to embrace in penitential seasons such as Lent and Advent. These three practices are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

When you make your Lenten plan, choose something specific from each category—and you're set for a grace-filled journey to Easter.

1. Prayer

Lent is the perfect time to build virtuous habits. It gives us the grace to tackle what we couldn't otherwise.

Since daily prayer is difficult for anyone who isn't a living saint, now is the time to counter this by developing consistent habits of prayer.

Start by asking yourself: *what are my prayer habits now?*

As Catholics, we ought to pray every day. Prayer is conversation and communion with the God who made us and loves us. No relationship would flourish if we failed to spend time in the presence of a loved one, conversing with them and offering them genuine attention.

If you are praying once a week at Sunday Mass or saying only a quick "Good morning, God!" as you head to work, make a simple commitment to daily prayer—and don't overdo it, in case you set yourself up for failures and guilt trips.

How much time should we set aside for daily prayer? Holy priests and spiritual advisors say that fifteen minutes is the absolute minimum. That's a solid goal for all of us.

Time spent in prayer should be adequate...A quarter of an hour is the absolute minimum, and anyone who is able should not hesitate to spend an hour on prayer, or even more every day...[But] A relatively short time (twenty minutes or half an hour), spent faithfully on mental prayer every day, is better than two hours now and then. Fr. Jacques Philippe, Time for God

Prayer is not always easy. It can feel dry, distracted, or lonely. Don't get discouraged—there are things that help inspire, nourish, and strengthen prayer.

Find a really engrossing spiritual book or sign up for a devotional series such as *The Life of Christ*. These things can bring about spontaneous prayer from the depths of our souls.

In summary: This Lent, try spending at least fifteen minutes in prayer a day. If you already do this, make the Rosary a daily habit. If you already do that, maybe add a Divine Mercy chaplet or a Holy Hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Give it some thought, and write down your commitment.

2. Fasting

Fasting is largely misunderstood today. Most Catholics think that fasting is a broad category of abstinence that includes giving up social media, music while driving, Netflix, and so on. That's not really fasting, however.

Now, don't get me wrong: it's important to practice discipline and self-control over the things mentioned above. When you do, you are strengthening your will and overcoming the desire for instant gratification and constant mind-numbing pleasure. Absolutely be

encouraged to incorporate such disciplines into your life!

True fasting, however, relates to food—to our physical appetite—and cannot be replaced by anything.

On all Fridays throughout the year, Catholics are requested to abstain from meat (thought outside of Lent, this can be substituted with another penance). However, on the Fridays of Lent, Catholics aged 14+ are required to abstain from meat. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (with exceptions for expectant women, for example) are required to fast. We do this by having only one full meal that day and two smaller meals that, added together, do not amount to the full meal.

Of course, this itself is a moderate form of fasting. Fasting formerly meant taking no food.

Due to our structure and habits of eating today, many of us find this practically impossible. However: there is a way to build an ability to fast that is simpler than you might think. Not easy—it does take a firm decision—but simple, with the right help: Dr. Jay Richards wrote about it in his book *Eat, Fast, Feast*. I sincerely recommend it. I read *Eat, Fast, Feast* and used Dr. Richards's guide for Lent last year. I discovered that it's amazing what the human body is capable of when it comes to fasting—and the benefits are truly God-given.

As Mike Aquilina wrote in his article "Introduction to Lent: Why do Catholics have to fast?":

The Bible spells out specific spiritual benefits of fasting. It produces humility (Ps 69:10). It shows our sorrow for our sins (1 Sam 7:6). It clears a path to God (Dan 9:3). It is a means of discerning God's will (Ezr 8:21) and a powerful method of prayer (8:23). It's a mark of true conversion (Jl 2:12).

Fasting has its health benefits, but it's not the same as dieting. Fasting is something spiritual and far more positive. Fasting is a spiritual feast. It does for the soul what food does for the body.

If fasting still sounds intimidating, be encouraged. Keep yourself going strong all forty days by not fasting on the Sundays of Lent. In fact, Sundays in Lent are not officially part of the forty days. (If they were, Lent would be forty-six days long.)

In summary: Consider taking on some hardcore fasting. Maybe pick a few more days during Lent to practice the Ash Wednesday/Good Friday fast. Maybe have one or two meals a day on one particular day of the week. Some people manage to do a bread-and-water fast at least once a week. If all this sounds too overwhelming, you can simply stick to the requirements of the Church as mentioned above and do them well—with your whole heart and soul.

Give this some thought, and write down your commitment.

3. Almsgiving

In all the excitement over fasting and giving things up, almsgiving is often forgotten. Yet almsgiving is a crucial work of charity that we Christians are called to participate in.

Jesus praised the poor widow who gave "all she had" to the temple treasury (Luke 21:1-4). St. James reminded us that faith must go hand-in-hand with good works, such as care for the poor:

What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

James 2:14-16

Lent is an important time for almsgiving, and each of us must give according to our situation. I was reminded by my parish priest that almsgiving is not the tithing you're already doing—it's giving above and beyond what you normally give. It is a true penance.

This isn't easy to say, but when we give alms, we are supposed to give not merely from our "plenty," but enough to make it hurt—or at least pinch.

But who to give to? Do you have trouble finding trustworthy causes?

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.



16th March after morning masses

If you would like to provide support or assistance please contact

WELCOME FR BARTHOLOMEW CHUKWU

We welcomed Fr Bartholomew to our parish community with a morning tea.

Thank you to everyone who brought delicious treats for the morning tea.

February Calendar

Mon	24	8:30am - Mass
Tues	25	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm—Rosary prayers Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	26	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	27	9:15am - Mass
Fri	28	9:15am - Mass

March

Sat	1	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	2	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass



**22nd March, Saturday
8:30am to 1:30pm**

Food, plants, household items, clothing etc
We invite parishioners who would like to be part of the yard sale (as sellers) please contact for details:

Agnes on 0438 487 050

Nanette on 0404 465 600

More details to follow. Hope to see everyone and support this endeavour.



From pg 4

Preparing for Lent

When it comes to monetary gifts, we do have to be cautious about where our funds go. Some organizations support things that contradict Church teaching and harm souls—and some are not transparent about their use of funds.

Thankfully, the Lepanto Institute has created a helpful report on trustworthy causes. I have found it to be a good resource.

The Knights of Columbus give 100% of your donation to charity—since they cover their own fees. You can specify which cause you want your money to go to, or leave it to them to put towards the cause that is most in need at that moment.

I have had the joy of knowing some of the women who work at Be Not Afraid—a non-profit that provides total support to parents whose unborn child has received a prenatal diagnosis. These can be the most forgotten families, and their babies are often denied proper care by doctors. Any amount we can give them is a huge gift.

For those who can't give money, we can seek to give our talent (making baby blankets for Be Not Afraid, as one lady does) or our time (volunteering at a homeless shelter or pregnancy center).

In summary: Pray about what alms you can give and to who. Discuss it with Jesus. “Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Give it some thought, and write down your commitment.

Be Encouraged

It's going to be a fruitful Lent. When we're mentally and spiritually prepared, it's easier to stick with our resolutions.

Do things that help you. If you need visual reminders, consider making some for yourself. Many people benefit from the “note-on-the-bathroom-mirror” tactic. Choose a Bible verse for Lent and stay inspired that way.

And let's pray for each other.

What are you doing for Lent this year? If you want to have a powerful Lenten experience, you need a plan.

<https://www.goodcatholic.com/how-to-prepare-for-lent/>

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.



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

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

Looking for volunteers to help clean our church and our surrounds. Our garden needs a lot of love and care. Anyone interested to be part of this ministry please contact the parish office or talk to Fr Jolly.

⇒ Grief and Bereavement Support Ministry. (Shalom)

We are looking for members to be part of this great counselling and comforting ministry. If you want to be part of this, a training course will be provided.

For more information please contact the parish office or get in touch with Fr Jolly.

⇒ MUSIC MINISTRY

Calling all singers and musicians!

Do you have a love for singing and want to use your voice to enhance worship in our parish? We are looking for parishioners, young and old alike to join our Music Ministry. You can either start a new choir group or join existing choirs.

If you're interested in being part of this wonderful group, please reach out to Neil Mascarenhas: 0422 445152 | neil.mas@gmail.com

Let's make a joyful noise together and lead the congregation in deepening their faith through music!

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 for any queries.



FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH



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



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

Deacon Rodrigo Rupac (Rudy), Tata Enad, Hemamali Fernando. (Hema)

Remembrances:

Anniversary:

Josefina Sarlabus

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 Dadvivas, 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 McCarroll, 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, Alvin, Brendan Prideaux, Virginia Villanueva, Ben Benesa

Thanksgiving:

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



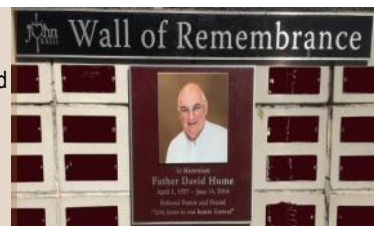
COLUMBARIUM

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 \$600.00



Join and be part of the **Cake Angels**
 contact Madeline Huang
cakeangels.stjohn23@gmail.com

PRaise AND WORSHIP
 3rd Saturdays at 7:30pm
 SJ23rd Prayer Group

Young at Hearts
 Seniors Group contacts
theyoungatheart@john23rd.org.au

Vinnies
 join the good works
 Message Rose Franco 0401 387427




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



Blaze and Ignite youth groups are participating in CYP's **Lifted Sports Day on Saturday 15th March.** We are looking for anyone over 16 who are keen to join our team ☺

If you know how to play volleyball, soccer, basketball or touch footy and are interested to join our group, please see one of our Ignite leaders after Mass or send us a message on our insta @ignite_sj23.

Our first training session is on Saturday 1st March.



Ignite Young Adults next session **Sunday 2nd of March.** Speaker for the night is one of our very own Ignite leader, Tijana Suric, who will be sharing her testimony on "The Waiting Season". We hope to see you there.


Calling All Young Singers!

Do you have a love for singing and want to use your voice to bring joy to our church? We are looking for children aged **6–12 years** to join our **St John 23rd Children's Choir!**

If you're interested in being part of this wonderful group, please reach out to **Maria** at **0416 228 705** | mariajohn14@hotmail.com

Alternatively contact our Music Ministry Lead **Neil Mascarenhas** at **0422 445152** | neil.mas@gmail.com

Let's make a joyful noise together!


LOOKING FOR YOUTH LEADERS

CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!


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

Indonesian Mass
 Every Second
 Saturday, 7.30pm
 St John 23rd Church



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

**Risen Lord Community
 Praise & Worship Night**
 7.30pm
**FRIDAYS,
 St John 23rd
 College Hall**



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 (340 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill)



Richard Spiteri (General Manager)