

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

Paul and Jesus give us words to take to heart today that, when accepted and lived, change us radically. The words are (Paul): 'All I want is to know Christ, everything else is so much rubbish' and (Jesus): 'Go and sin no more'.

Paul the faithful well-educated Pharisee (lay men who helped their fellow Jews know and observe the Law given them by God) had worked at being the best possible Jew he could be. He knew what the Law required and he lived it. Doing all the right things would keep him in union with God. All that changed when Jesus spoke to him outside Damascus and revealed that he, Jesus, lived and indwelt those who accepted Him as the messiah: why do you persecute me? Christ was all that mattered.

As we open our eyes to each new day, we can say what Paul said: All I want is to know Christ'. Then we get up and embrace the day. We shall be busy with all the activities of the day and attend to them to the best of our ability but the words are just there in the corner of our mind. We deliberately live in the presence of God.

This brings us to the words Jesus spoke to the woman whom the scribes and Pharisees brought as bait for a trap in which to ensnare Jesus and discredit him as a faithful teacher in the sight of the people who saw him as a prophet. The woman's accusers shot themselves in the foot with the approach they adopted. The law did say that those guilty of adultery were to be stoned to death but adultery cannot be committed alone. They brought the woman but not the man.

Their hypocrisy is obvious and Jesus refuses to talk about the requirement of the law as they badger him for a response to their accusations. The law required those who witnessed the sin to be people of integrity hence the statement Jesus makes about those without sin being the first to begin the killing. Light has been shone on themselves and they leave shamefaced.

Only then does Jesus look up the ground to the woman still standing there. When asked if anyone has condemned her, she says no.

Jesus says neither will he but says to her: 'Go and sin no more'. His concern is to rescue the woman from her terrible plight and set her free for a new life. We do not find this approach easy to adopt. The religious instinct is more prone to condemn and punish.

Fr Richard Leonard comments on this episode in John's gospel. "So often we want Jesus to leave it as (I do not condemn you, especially with sexual sins) but Jesus goes further. He tells it as it is. If any of us want life and want it to the full, we have to stop doing the destructive things that get us into trouble in the first place. It does not matter if it is drinking, gambling, eating, working, stealing, sexual dysfunction, being into pornography, being violent at home or any other type of obsessive compulsive behaviour, there is little point in being sorry for the consequences of our weaknesses and not changing the pattern of behaviour that leads us to ruin each time."

Fr Tom Doyle, a canon lawyer from the United States speaking to a webinar about the abuse and cover-up crisis in the Church said he believed Alcoholics Anonymous was the closest thing to the early Church he had seen. "AA is not a counselling or group therapy. It is a meeting of men and women who have something in common. It is deeply spiritual and it works. It helps us become better persons. It helps us to avoid drinking by healing ourselves. It stresses honesty and non-judgmentalism. It I what I think the Church probably was in the beginning."

Knowing Christ and living as he did requires us to be as pro-active as the members of AA. To use other words of St Paul: Let us put on Christ and wear him as our most comfortable set of clothes, day in and day out, and not just for special occasions "our Sunday best."

### 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
<b>2nd Sat</b>	7:30pm Indonesian Mass

#### Masses of Devotion

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

#### Exposition + Benediction

<b>1st Fri</b>	after 9.15am, 7.30pm
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#### Reconciliation

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

#### Sacraments

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

<b>Tue</b>	7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers ( <i>Church Tabernacle</i> )
<b>Fri</b>	6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group parish office <i>Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039</i>
<b>Fri</b>	7:00pm Stations of the Cross & Mass

#### Special Blessings

<b>Blessing during masses</b>	
<b>1st Sun</b>	Birthday celebrants
<b>3rd Sun</b>	Wedding anniversaries

For any 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)

**Parish Lenten Reconciliation**  
Parish Lenten Reconciliation will be  
Tuesday 8th April at 6.30pm.

## 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 Bartholomew Chukwu

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

### 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  
Bartholomew to join you in prayers at home, please  
organise with the parish office.

Rosary Statue Family Roster					
Apr	1 <i>Deang</i>	8 Ring	15 Sebastian	22 Shalini	29 Jacob
May	6 Dennis	13 Sebastian	20 Ruggiero	27 <i>Available</i>	
Jun	3 <i>Available</i>	10 <i>Available</i>	17 Ruggiero	24 Huang	
Jul	1 <i>Available</i>	8 Tanganan	15 Ruggiero	22 <i>Available</i>	29 <i>Available</i>
Aug	5 <i>Available</i>	12 <i>Available</i>	19 <i>Available</i>	26 <i>Available</i>	

*"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.

**PERIOD OF LENT - STATIONS OF THE CROSS** 7:00PM every Friday followed by Mass.

### PRAYING in the SILENCE of the HEART

*with Brother Roger of Taizé*

God, you love every human  
person. When we surrender  
ourselves to you, we come to  
understand that even what pains  
our heart is made bright by the  
Holy Spirit.



### "Devotion To The Divine Mercy"

2nd Sunday of Easter,  
27<sup>th</sup> April  
SJ23rd Parish  
from 4:00 to 5.30pm  
followed by the 6pm  
Mass.

## Caring for our parish 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.

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



**TapGo** machines available by the entrances.

## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### Ambrose Early Learning

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: 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

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

### First Reading

*Isaiah 43:16-21*

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself

will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 125*

**R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R.**

### Second Reading

*Philippians 3:8-14*

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*Joel 2:12-13*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

*John 8:1-11*

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Communion Antiphon

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.



WHAT PALM SUNDAY MEANS

There is both great joy and terrible sorrow associated with this day, the Sunday that begins Holy Week, the Sunday that portends the crucifixion of Our Lord.

It is a time of despair, perplexity and contradiction. The very people who applaud Christ's entrance into Jerusalem that morning, shouting out "Hosanna" and words of adoration will, within a week, be crying, "Crucify Him." They will go from acclaiming Him as the new King of Israel to urging His life be traded in favor of a convicted criminal; they will first praise Him and then mock Him. Even friends entering Jerusalem at His side will desert Jesus. All this discord will take place during one week beginning on what we call Palm Sunday.

**Exuberant Crowds**

As we read in the Gospels, Jesus went to Jerusalem to join with throngs of other Jews to celebrate the Passover feast as had been prescribed in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. According to the Gospel of St. John, Jesus and many of his followers journeyed the less than two miles from Bethany on that Sunday, arriving outside Jerusalem. As was the custom, pilgrims that had already arrived in the city went out to greet newly arriving groups; some had never seen Jesus but had heard about the miracles attributed to Him and were caught up in the excitement.

Those arriving with and greeting Jesus were large in number as explained by John's Gospel: "When the great crowd ... heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: 'Hosanna! / Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, [even] the king of Israel'" (12:12-13).

This adulation was not lost on the Pharisees who were present. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out" (see Lk 19:39-40). The Pharisees reported the events back to the Jewish high council, the Sanhedrin, which regarded Jesus' ever growing popularity as a threat to their cozy relationship with the Romans. They were, in fact, planning to murder Him.

Previously, Our Lord had deliberately avoided popular acclaim, even fled, but this, upon entering Jerusalem, He accepts. Yet His actions are different than the people expected. He doesn't present himself as a rival to Caesar; He is not the political messiah or the warrior king the multitude had clamored for. Instead of entering Jerusalem on a war horse or chariot, he enters on a donkey, a sign of peace; and not just any donkey, but one on which no one had ever sat, the prerogative of a king. Seeing Him on the donkey, the Jews surging around Him recalled the words of the Prophet Zechariah 500 years earlier:

"Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! / Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! / Behold: your king is coming to you; / a just savior is he, / Humble, and riding on a donkey, / on a colt, the foal of a donkey. / He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim / and the horse from Jerusalem" (Zec 9:9-10).

Pope Benedict XVI explained these Old Testament words as they related to Jesus: "He is a king who destroys the weapons of war, a king of peace and a king of simplicity, a king of the poor.... Jesus is not building on violence; he is not instigating a military revolt against Rome" ("Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week," Ignatius Press, 2011, pp. 81-82).

Riding on the borrowed donkey, Jesus made His humble entrance into the city while the crowds were scattering their garments before Him and waving their palm branches. This joyful scene belies the traitorous acts, sorrow and agony that will soon follow, belies that this triumphant hero will be crucified like a criminal.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) offered a homily about Christ's entry into Jerusalem: "How different the cries, 'Away with him, away with him, crucify him,' and then, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna, in the highest!' How different the cries are that now are calling him 'King of Israel' and then in a few days' time will be saying, 'We have no king but Caesar!' What a contrast between the green branches and the cross, between the flowers and the thorns! Before they were offering their own clothes for him to walk upon, and so soon afterwards they are stripping him of his, and casting lots upon them."

**Implication of the Palms**

Palms were symbols of life among the nomadic tribes, who, when crossing the desert, rejoiced at seeing the palm tree as it indicated an oasis with life-giving water was near. Palms have long been a sign of victory, success and glory. Victorious armies or leaders returning from the battlefield or a long military campaign were welcomed by the populace jubilantly waving palm branches. Despite Jesus' peaceful manner, when the Jews waved the palms at Him and spread their clothing over which He rode, they were affording Him the honors of a conquering hero and simultaneously defying the Roman occupiers.

On Palm Sunday, we still go out to meet Him, carry the blessed palms, joyfully sing out our hosanna and join in His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. But soon our joy turns to somberness as, clutching our palm, we hear the narrative of Christ's passion. We realize, once again, that His triumph, His true victory, will come through the cross. We know, as Jesus did, how Holy Week will end. We know that joy will turn to sorrow and back to joy. We know that through the horror of His suffering, followed by the glory of His resurrection, good will trump evil and life will trump death.

The palms we take home and put in a special place serve to remind us that Palm Sunday is not lost to the ages but that by Christ's victory we, too, can achieve everlasting life. "For us too, they [palms] must be symbols of triumph, indicative of the victory to be won in our battle against the evil in ourselves and against the evil which roams about us. As we receive the blessed palm, let us renew our pledge to conquer with Jesus, but let us not forget that it was on the cross that He conquered" ("Divine Intimacy," Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., Tan Books, 1997, pp. 392-393).

**Reenacting Palm Sunday**

Soon after the Resurrection, Christians wanted to visit the sites of Christ's passion and even reenact the incidents that had taken place, such as His entry into Jerusalem. But such activity would not be possible until the fourth century when Constantine became emperor of the Roman Empire and ended all religious persecution. Later in that century, a Spanish pilgrim named Eigerá visited Jerusalem. In her diary, she recorded how Christians re-created the events of Holy Week. She wrote that they gathered outside the city on the Sunday before Easter and listened to one of the Gospels telling of Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Then they marched together through the city gates while carrying olive or palm branches. Our Palm Sunday processions are akin to what Eigerá witnessed 17 centuries ago.

By the ninth century, the procession with blessed palms had expanded beyond Jerusalem and during the Middle Ages became widespread throughout Europe. In the 17th century Christians were not only processing into church with palms but, during Mass, holding the palms while the Passion was being read.

Through the centuries, Palm Sunday and the procession of people holding palms would be celebrated in a variety of ways. In some locations the Blessed Sacrament was part of the procession, in other places the congregation started in the parish cemetery and then went into the church. Palms were sometimes blessed in one church and the people, carrying the palms, marched to another church for Mass. Most typical was the blessing of the people and the palms at a place outside the church and then processing in. For some time, even through the middle of the 20th century, the priest wore red vestments during the palm blessing and procession and then changed to a violet garment for Mass.

In 1955, the Church standardized and simplified the different entrances used on Palm Sunday: either an organized procession that begins somewhere outside the church, a solemn procession starting inside the church, or no procession at all. An entrance procession beginning at a location outside the church is used only once during the weekend Masses; it is not repeated at every Mass. The Church calls this day Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.

*D.D. Emmons writes from Pennsylvania.*

*<https://www.simplycatholic.com/hosanna-what-is-the-meaning-of-palm-sunday/#:~:text=Previously%2C%20Our%20Lord%20had%20deliberately,9:9%2D10>*

## Community Events



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.

## April Calendar

Mon	7	8:30am - Mass
Tues	8	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm—Rosary & novena prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	9	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	10	9:15am - Mass
Fri	11	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Stations of the Cross 7:30pm - Mass
Sat	12	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	13	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

# UPCOMING Community



### Join us for morning tea

We have tea, coffee and scones available after the 9 am Mass.



## EASTER TRIDUUM 2025 SCHEDULE



**Maundy Thursday - 18th April** 7.30 pm Mass (School Hub)  
Holy hours after the Celebration of Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. The church will be open till midnight.



**Good Friday - 19th April**  
10.00 am Stations of the Cross (St Marks School grounds)  
3.00 pm Veneration of the Cross (St Marks School Hub)



**Easter Vigil - 20th April**  
6.30 pm Mass (Church)



**Easter Sunday - 21st April**  
7.30 am, 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.00 pm  
All masses at Church

# EASTER CELEBRATION

Easter Sunday, 20 April, after the 10:30 am mass

## EGG

Kids up to the age 10 years are welcome  
1 parent or adult can assist if need be.

## HUNT

*For those participating, please stay in the church after the mass and wait for further instructions.*



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**

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

**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 Joyce Celestino 0450 001 047 or email [joyce\\_claire16@hotmail.com](mailto:joyce_claire16@hotmail.com) for any queries.



**FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH**

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



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

**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*

Fe Borromeo, Rhonda Helen Smith, Joan Edith Burke

**Remembrances:**

Roy Mangilaya, Albert Gunaratnam

**Anniversary:**

**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, John Todhunter, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Rosanna John Pellissery, Cindy Dadvivas, Christina Properzi, John Tipton, Elizabeth Candame, Jovita Castillo, Ryan Dixon, Margaret Harrison, Carlo Bueno, Peter Dawson, Emma Matoza, Lino Matteazi, Isagani Ocampo, Florentina Elisura, Peter McArdle, Melissa Nava Cathie Christie, Jerry Bondoc, Elizabeth Langley, Geoffrey Robinson, Obet Dionisio, Bev Osborn, Maria Romeo, Louise Smith, Raymond Lanzona, Jonathan Gemin, Joshua McCarroll, Troy James, Lucas Colleta, Adrian Von Hart, Ksenija Bosnic, Charlie Busuttill, Perla Magculang, Hilary Regan, Zoey Illic, Jakov & Marija Franich, Elsie Knapp, Bev Lewis, Lenka Olivier Talija, Myrna Manalili, Marilyn Nalapo, Dudley Francis, Manuel Sarris, Virginia Santos, Carrie Conolly, Natasha Leitao, Victor Pons, Jerwin McCarron, Valeria Laureta, Mary Phillips, Helen West, Emma Q Fernando, Brendan Prideaux, Fausto Bayot, Jude Newnes, Barbara Thompson, Alvin, Imelda Vinluan, Chet Catapang, Zena Samar, Ryan Dixon, Rosie Carbonel

**Thanksgiving:**

Amaya, Yehan & Yalindra Peiris, Karla Mae Eidem

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



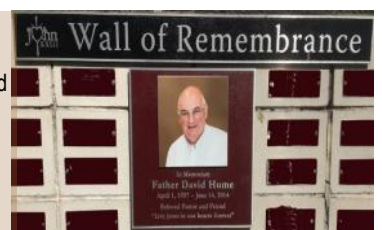
**COLUMBARIUM**

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](mailto:columbarium@john23rd.org.au)  
 The plaques cost \$600.00



Join and be part of the **Cake Angels**  
 contact Madeline Huang  
[cakeangels-stpjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:cakeangels-stpjohn23@gmail.com)

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

**Young at Hearts**  
 Seniors Group contacts  
[theyoungatheart@john23rd.org.au](mailto: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/>

**Franciscan Men**

Topic: Agony in the Garden: Facing Fear and Vulnerability

**SUNDAY 13TH APRIL**

**6:15PM Adoration**  
Followed by Dinner and Presentation  
All Men 18+ Welcome

With Br. Pat McCarthy

Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents  
8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville NSW  
franciscan.men@gmail.com

**RCIA**  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We have 10 candidates:  
To be baptised: **Jenelle, Jeshurun, Senuri, Ravi & Ronald;**  
Together with them these would receive the Sacraments of Confirmation & Holy Communion: **Jayden, Cherise, Charity, Lorraine & Sean**  
Please pray for them each day as they go through their final preparation. Thank You  
The RCIA team at St John 23rd

Th RCIA team requests the parish community to pray for the candidates preparing for Baptism & the Sacraments. They will receive the Sacraments at the **Easter Vigil Mass on 19th April 2025.**

**REMINDER FOR KINDERGARTEN 2026 ENROLMENTS**

Reminder to families who have children ready to start Kindergarten next year 2026. If you have not already applied for Kindergarten 2026, you need to organise and complete your enrolment applications, ready for submission before the enrolment period closes.

Our enrolment period opened on Wednesday 5th March 2025 and will close on Thursday 10th April 2025.

"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."

CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!  
Email: blaze@john23rd.org.au  
Instagram: @blazeyouthsj23

**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  
 (Indonesian Language)

## Risen Lord Community Praise & Worship Night



7.30pm

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

Come join us for an evening of deep intimacy with the Lord. Learn about the abundant and victorious life that Jesus died and purchased for us to have.



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 (340 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill)



Richard Spiteri (General Manager)



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