

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 most apparent connection of today's first reading to the gospel is Abraham's interceding on behalf of sinners. If a city may be considered an entity capable of sin (and our practice of naming cities does bestow a quasi-personification) then Abraham has interceded for the forgiveness of the city, or of its collective citizenry. But closer scrutiny shows his specific concern is about the proposed destruction of those individuals in the city who are not sinners, called here "the righteous", or "the just" in our translation. He seems alarmed by the thought that these innocents should suffer the same fate as sinners. From this story facets of the character of Abraham developed in Jewish folklore and legends, and in them we find the same sensibilities that led to the general spurning in antiquity of the practice of capital punishment, holding it better for very many guilty to be acquitted than for one innocent to die for a crime he or she did not commit. But God, who alone reads the heart, is a true judge, and does know who is innocent and who is guilty. Without quibbling over the degree of seriousness of each sin, in the Lord's Prayer we simply ask forgiveness of our sins, but bring upon ourselves the obligation of forgiving others too.

Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer in today's gospel is not well known for it was Matthew's longer form that was taken into the living tradition. While the few differences between them are interesting, the two nearly identical petitions concerning bread and forgiveness are more so. Saint Augustine testified to the prayer having a place between the Eucharistic Prayer and the reception of Communion in almost every church of his time. Soon afterward its use at this point in the Eucharist achieved universal status, and in all but the Byzantine church an embolism in the petition for deliverance from sin was inserted. This usage appears to have been for either of two reasons, or happily both working together: the petition for bread (to which we will turn shortly), or the growing sense of the need for forgiveness so as not to receive the sacrament unworthily. This second one was further highlighted in the Roman church by fixing the exchange of peace between the prayer

and reception of Communion as a demonstration of our forgiving each other before we can receive the sacrament of unity. This Kiss of Peace, as it was originally known, is a mandated feature, not an optional extra in our Eucharist, notwithstanding a misunderstanding having developed in some circles from the rubric that permits the deacon or priest to give a verbal direction if needed (originally intended for people unaccustomed to the restored practice).

Returning to the petition for bread, we find a difficulty; if we are asking for daily food, why should this be associated with the Eucharist, which we distinguish from ordinary food? But there is an ancient tradition that associates this petition with the Eucharist and not with "daily" bread. Even in antiquity there was uncertainty over its meaning in the prayer. The difficulty is that the Greek adjective *epiousios*, by longstanding practice translated as daily in our prayer, was not a common word; this prayer in both Matthew and Luke is the only time it is used in Scripture, and two centuries later Origen (died c.254) testified that it was not used in ordinary speech. Cyprian of Carthage, Origen's contemporary, knew it in the translation as supersubstantial rather than as daily, and over a century later Jerome testified to a now lost Aramaic (often misnamed Hebrew) gospel that used tomorrow's. The Syriac texts provide two possibilities, of our necessity and perpetual. Jerome's offering points to the possibility that it referred to the second portion of the double ration of manna in Exodus, the portion collected on Fridays and the only one that would last until the morrow, the Sabbath, when harvesting was prohibited (Exodus 16:21-23). If so, then it would be no surprise that early Christians did associate it with the Eucharistic bread, the bread of the journey that sustains for the future life, the Sabbath bread, making the prayer particularly apt for the Eucharist.

#### 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 <i>during school days</i>
<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 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>

#### Special Blessings

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

Join & be part of our community.  
scan the QR code



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

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

### Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

### First Reading

*Genesis 18:20-32*

*Lord, do not be angry if I speak.*

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No,' he replied, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will be only forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 137:1-3, 6-8*

**R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of affliction you give me life and frustrate my foes. **R.**

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

### Second Reading

*Colossians 2:12-14*

*He has made you alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.*

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

*Romans 8:15*

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Luke 11:1-13*

*Ask, and it will be given to you.*

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### Communion Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.



## 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.*

### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

*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 [emcippi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emcippi85@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 your home,  
please organise with the parish office.**

### Rosary Statue Family Roster

Jul	1	8	15	22	29
	Ruggiero	Tanganan	Ring	Dennis	Barnouti
Aug	5	12	19	26	
	Jacob	Tanganan	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	
Sep	2	9	16	23	30
	Hala	Valdez	Tanganan	Ring	Barnouti
Oct	7	14	21	28	
	Valdez	Richards	Jacob	Nobleza	
Nov	4	11	18	25	
	Deang	Sebastian	Hala	Festejo	

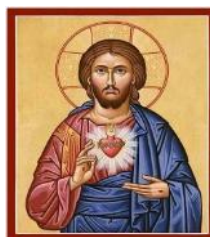
*"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"*

### HOLY HOUR

Eucharistic Adoration

every Wednesday at 8:00PM

**Eucharistic Adoration will be moved  
to 6-7pm ONLY on the following  
Wednesday dates 30th July and 6th  
August**



### 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

Christ Jesus,  
you came into the world, not to  
condemn the world but so that,  
by the Holy Spirit, we could live  
a communion with God.

## 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



**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](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

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

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

### St John XXIII Catholic College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

A/Principal: Frank Chiment

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ [stjohn23stanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stjohn23stanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

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



## 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.

# UPCOMING Community

## July Calendar

Mon	28	8:30am - Mass
Tues	29	<i>Saints Martha, Mary &amp; Lazarus (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary & Novena prayer Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	30	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	31	<i>Saint Ignatius of Loyola (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass

## August

Fri	1	<i>Saint Alphonsus Mary de Liguori (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Sat	2	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	3	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

**CRL SYDNEY** PRESENTS

# THE JESUS WAY

AN INVITATION TO ENCOUNTER JESUS  
IN A DEEPER WAY.

**02 AUGUST 2025**

**9AM- 5PM STARTING WITH HOLY MASS**

**KIDS MINISTRY CHILD MINDING**

**FREE EVENT** FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

ST. JOHN XXIII CHURCH, STANHOPE GARDENS 2768  
WWW.RISENLORDCOMMUNITY.COM.AU

REGISTER NOW

**Register for the 2025 Greater Sydney Community Sleepout Friday 29th August**

**Vinnies COMMUNITY SLEEPOUT**

**Vinnies** good work!

### It's all about locals supporting locals

Help Vinnies break the cycle of homelessness by joining our Greater Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout and braving the cold for one night.

#### Event Details

**When:** 6pm, Friday 29 August 2025  
**Venue:** Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus (Rydalmere)  
**Event Coordinator:** Kate Conroy  
**E:** kate.conroy@vinnies.org.au **M:** 0403 241 986  
**What to Expect:** Inspiring guest speakers sharing real stories of homelessness, addiction, and recovery. Small group discussions & Trivia. Simple dinner: a cup of soup. Experience sleeping rough with just cardboard, a pillow, and a sleeping bag. Light breakfast in the morning.

**Where Does the Money Go?** Funds raised from the 2025 Greater Sydney Community Sleepout will directly support local services including: Maternal Heart Conference, Vinnies Support Centres, the Cumberland Vinnies Van, Way Way Vinnies Van and the Vinnies Broken Bay DV Fund. Your support helps ensure these vital services continue to make a difference in the lives of those doing it tough in our communities.

#### How you can get involved:

- Register as an individual or team
- **Dollar for Dollar Sponsor** - Sponsor provides a donation and over a 24 hour period, all public donations are matched until the sponsored amount has been exhausted.
- Other event sponsorship opportunities are available.

#### Did you know?

Vinnies in Greater Sydney has provided the following assistance over the past 12 months:

**37,842 people** assisted (7% increase)

**\$5,478,600** financial and material assistance provided (20% increase)

**31%** seeking assistance for the first time

**49%** experiencing housing stress

**21%** are experiencing homelessness or are in temporary accommodation

To register, scan the QR code or visit:  
my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/greater-sydney-vinnies-community-sleepout-2025



**St John XXIII**

# HOPE FEST

**FRI 8 - SUN 10 AUGUST**

A 3-DAY DIOCESAN EXPERIENCE  
CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

ALL AGES WELCOME: PRAISE & WORSHIP •  
COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY • LOCAL FAMILY PILGRIMAGE

HOSTED by St John XXIII Catholic Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens, 160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768

IGNITE, RISEN LORD, GLAZE, THE FAITH FEED

REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE MISSION ENHANCEMENT TEAM (MET) VIA MET@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG

REGISTER HERE

**St John XXIII**

# HOPE FEST

**FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 7PM-9PM**  
THE FAITHFEED ECHO

ECHOING THE GOD OF WHO WORKS IN US, AMONG US & AROUND US

ALL AGES WELCOME  
ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH  
160 PERFECTION AVE

Register via parish

**St John XXIII**

# HOPE FEST

**SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 10AM-12PM**  
HOPE IN THE WORD

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

DOOR CHURCH  
STANHOPE GARDENS

**St John XXIII**

# HOPE FEST

**SUN 10 AUGUST 11:30AM-3PM**  
LOCAL PILGRIMAGE

JUBILEE OF HOPE PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCISCAN SHRINE OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, KELLYVILLE

SUNDAY 10 AUGUST - 11:30AM TO 3:00PM  
ALL AGES WELCOME  
ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH BUILDING  
160 PERFECTION AVENUE, STANHOPE GARDENS

Register via parracatholic.org/events/hopefest



For catering  
purposes



## Pastoral Ministries

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mahatma Gandhi*  
We are in urgent need for volunteers to assist in the different pastoral ministries in our Parish.



## WE NEED YOU

### ⇒ SRE Teachers

If you could spare an hour during weekdays to spread God's word teaching the scriptures to children, **WE NEED YOU**. We currently have 4 public primary schools and a high school in our parish where we hold scripture classes during school hours for 30 minutes during Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For more information please call Asoki 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814. Training and resources will be provided.

### ⇒ GARDENERS AND CLEANERS

Now that the church is open for celebrations, its floors need to be swept of dust, cobwebs brushed off, candle stands cleaned and garden kept green. We would like to request all our volunteer cleaners and gardeners to come back and continue their ministry. For more information contact [maintenance@john23rd.org.au](mailto:maintenance@john23rd.org.au) or the parish office.

### ⇒ MUSIC MINISTRY

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)

### FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

For donation, please contact James David on 0413 787596



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*

Eric Fernando, Virgilio Aquino Dormido, Rosa Miscuso, Marcelino Agana IV

### Remembrances:

### Anniversary:

Louis Cherry, Lili Mantoura Khoury

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

### Thanksgiving:

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



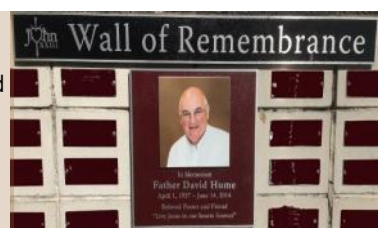
### COLUMBARIUM

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



**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

## Update of Proposed Church Extension

Please pray for the realization of our proposed parish office and extension and gathering hall.

Below pictured is an updated proposed plan.



CHURCH AND HALL EXTENSION - MAIN ENTRY



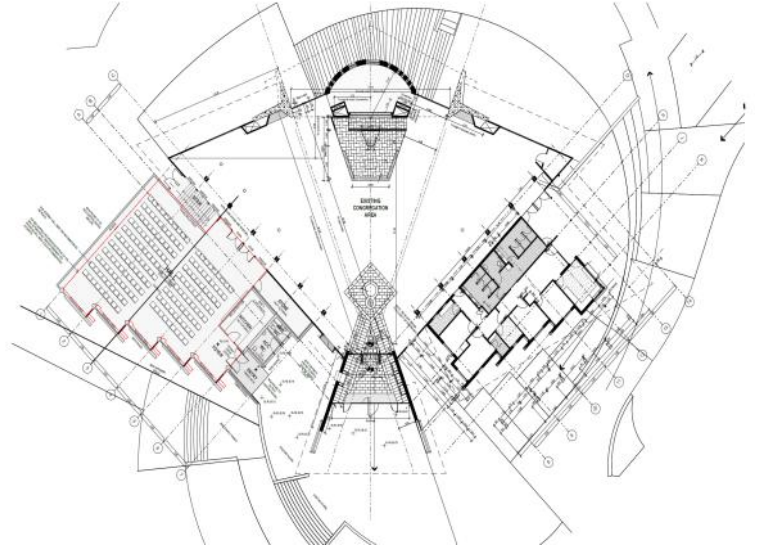
CHURCH AND HALL EXTENSION - WESTERN FACADE



HALL EXTENSION - SOUTH ENTRY



HALL EXTENSION - OFFICE NORTH ENTRY



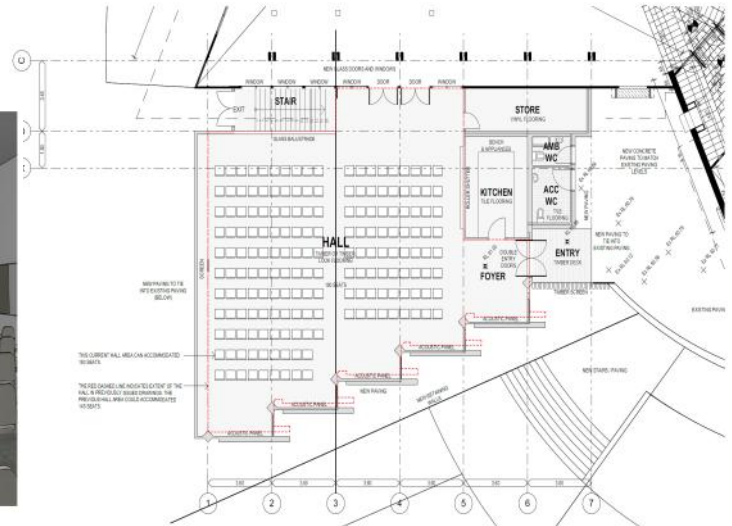
Upper deck area next to the church foyer.



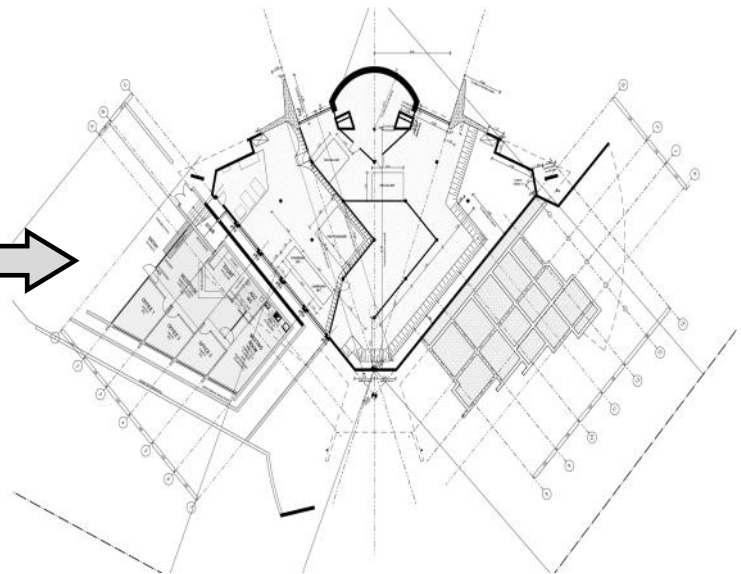
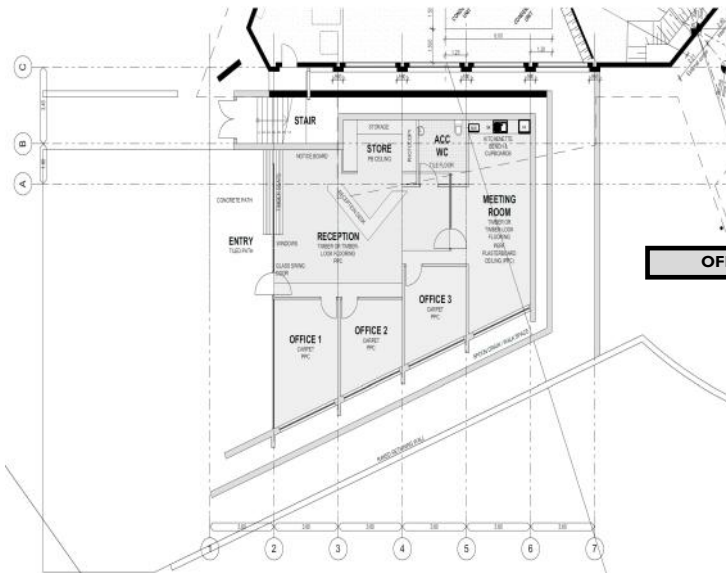
HALL INTERIOR - VIEW TOWARDS CONGREGATION AREA



HALL INTERIOR - VIEW TOWARDS CONGREGATION AREA



Below deck area next to the garden where the office will be assigned.





## Memorized prayers offer us a spiritual home

By Jenna McDonald — *Grace Is Waiting*

Catholics get a bad rap for rattling off prayers from memory. To outsiders, our practice of memorizing and reciting prayers seems at best sterile and at worst, insincere. The criticism is understandable at first glance, but perhaps what the critics don't know is that the alternative is capped spiritual growth and stunted fortitude for enduring times of trial and dryness.

There is a reason why we say we "know something by heart" once we've committed it to memory. When something has been integrated into our memory it finds a home in the deeper strata of our being. All the major world religions since their inception have placed considerable value upon memorization. Pope John Paul II spoke against "memoryless catechesis," insisting the neglect of simple memorization is akin to robbing children of a "moral compass" and leaving them without a "place to call home, spiritually speaking."

The founder of the Institute for Excellence in Writing, Andrew Pudewa, says memorizing anything is the equivalent of "furnishing the mind." Although modern schooling methods have decided memorizing is out of style, there is immense value in letting the mind absorb and mull over words of wisdom committed to memory, be it prayers, Scripture, or excerpts from beautiful literature.

In the life of a Christian, there will be times when the fire of love and inspiration will waver; jobs will get stressful, and young children will require every ounce of physical energy and creativity we have. In these moments when we feel we have nothing but sighs to offer to God, we can also offer him that which we have committed to memory and has taken up permanent real estate in our brains (and by extension in our bodies and hearts). In those moments, we can become the very truth, beauty, and goodness we find in the words we have memorized.

When we sit down to pray and our minds will not focus, the most efficient way to settle our spirits enough to pray is to call down words

from the cathedrals of our memory.

This simple "preparatory" prayer was used by St. Josemaria Escriva and is just one example from the Church's treasury:

"Lord, I believe that you see me, that you hear me. I adore you with profound reverence. I beg your pardon for my many sins and the grace to make this time of prayer fruitful. Mary, my mother; Saint Joseph, my father and lord; my guardian angel: intercede for me."

When our minds can't be trusted to cross over the bridges leading to contemplation, we must rely on vocal prayers to take us there by the hand; we must rely heavily on acts of the will. If there are no prayers in our memories, what poverty indeed.

A quick prayer spoken from memory calls forth blessing; it reminds our flesh of the spiritual realm all around us because our thoughts do not tend toward this way of living on their own. We can trust that what we have memorized represents truths we choose to believe regardless of our emotions. We tap into the power of the communion of saints and into the faith of the people of God on earth. Our memory serves as a steadfast friend who is a mainstay when we cannot trust ourselves.

"However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live but teach them to your children and to your children's children" (Dt 4:9).

If you do not furnish your mind and the minds of your children with numerous blessings, prayers, and Scriptures, it is as if you are politely refusing the family fortune that falls to you. The help and the wealth that has been dropped onto our laps – for us to feast upon and to give to our children for their welfare and flourishing – is nothing short of opulence.

<https://bccatholic.ca/voices/jenna-mcdonald-bccath/memorized-prayers-offer-us-a-spiritual-home>

## Diocesan News



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

### 7 - 25 September 2025 - ADULT JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

Led by Rachael, a passionate Lay Augustinian and seasoned pilgrimage leader, this journey is deeply enriched by her personal connection with Pope Leo XIV - the first Augustinian Pope. With special access to the Augustinian house in the Vatican and reflections shaped by years of ministry and friendship, this pilgrimage offers more than just travel - it's a spiritual encounter. Register <https://parracatholic.org/events/jubilee-pilgrimage-2025/> or to download a copy of the itinerary <https://parracatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Adult-Jubilee-Pilgrimage-Itinerary-Harvest-NO-QR-CODE.pdf>. Payment due 7 July

### 30 November to 2 December - AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Diocese of Parramatta will be joining the Australian Church at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Melbourne from 30 November to 3 December 2025!

Join thousands of young Catholics from across Australia for an unforgettable festival featuring inspiring guest speakers, artists, and musicians.

For more details and to express your interest, <https://parracatholic.org/connect/acyf/> or email [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

## Youth Ministry



### BLAZE YOUTH

**WHO:** Year 7 to 12

**WHEN:** 7:00 - 9:00pm

**WHERE:** St John XXIII College (C Block Bell space)

For any queries, please email us at

[blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au) or DM @blazeyouthsj23 on Instagram and Facebook"



### IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS

**WHO:** 18 - 35 years of age

**WHEN:** First Sundays each 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 [gnite.stjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:gnite.stjohn23@gmail.com) or DM on @ignite\_sj23



### MORE YOUTH GROUPS

<b>CRL</b> <i>(Community of the Risen Lord)</i>	Rojith de Silva 0405 9563210 Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009	<b>YFC (Youth for Christ)</b> <i>Australia International</i>	Dominic Lim 0468 826253 Ronan Limguangco 0478 629629
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**Indonesian  
Mass**  
Every Second  
Saturday, 7.30pm  
St John 23<sup>rd</sup> Church

Please come and celebrate

**Risen Lord Community  
Praise & Worship Night**



**7.30pm**

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St John 23<sup>rd</sup>  
College Hall**

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