

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

There is a tension in maintaining things in balance. We cannot consume everything as soon as it comes to hand, and it is prudent to set things aside for the future, so we harvest in summer and autumn, or at any time of plenty, and store the produce so as to have something to eat during winter or other times of want. It also frees us from having to search for food daily. In my childhood memories the pantries and cupboards of the extended family were filled each year with preserved fruits and vegetables of all kinds. Today's perennially stocked supermarkets are our pantries, and so the habit of larding has diminished or vanished. After cyclones have destroyed shops and closed supply lines people suddenly remember, too late, the benefit of stocking at least a few days worthy of emergency supplies. Today little is left in larders or cellars upon death, though the bank account may be full.

Several bird species, and more famously squirrels, cache nuts and seeds, but inevitably the day comes when they die and whatever was stored is lost to them. Is their caching folly, and vain wastage? It is true that the store may then be pilfered by another who thus gains easy pickings from the other's hard work. But some troves are never found, especially those that are buried. Was the time spent doing it in vain? From the perspective of the individual alone, yes, but it could not be known when the activity would become superfluous—and in the case of buried seeds, trees have benefited in having the next generation more widely propagated. The system requires the creative tension of prudent storage for future survival against the inevitable superfluity. It would be a gift indeed to know the hour of death so precisely as to be able to cease working at the right time and to live off one's goods to leave the world with a balance of zero. But that is a very selfish view.

The first reading's "Preacher" laments the system's inevitable "wastage"—and that may be the book's weakness; it seems to have the selfish preoccupation that is prominent in modern times. When society and cultures focus more on the family or community than the individual, what is worked for and stored continues for the

benefit of the family or community after the death of the individual. In the gospel parable the focus is entirely on the wealthy man. But the given context for the parable is avarice, the disordered desire for goods beyond need, or purely for self-interest. This is not the same as the wise use of one's goods, which will appear later in the gospel to be read on Sundays 24C and 25C, indirectly in the parable of a division of a future inheritance (or the parable of "The Prodigal Son") and the parable misnamed as "The Rich Man and Lazarus", told in response to Pharisees mocking Jesus for his teaching on the use of wealth.

By coincidence, the little-used word for "avarice" in the gospel is also found in our second reading (Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11) translated as "greed", as Paul advises Christians in Colossae to put aside earthly qualities, "especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god". Just before that we hear "Let your hearts be on heavenly things" that a direct translation would read as "Consider (or ponder) things above (or on high)". When those two translations are considered together we may be reminded of the opening dialogue to the Eucharistic Prayer, "Lift up your hearts", though our Latin text's *Sursum corda* more literally reads "Hearts on high (or upward, or above)". The tone of this part of Paul's letter to the Colossians does indeed resonate with the impetus of the Eucharistic Prayer, the "Anaphora" or "Lifting up" of "Offering", which is most clearly spelled out in the dialogue and preface, culminating in the conscious joining of the song of the angels. What we express in the Eucharist and put before us as our model of right living is that selfless self-giving of Christ, the very quality missing from today's parable's rich man. This is true also for all who consider their material acquisitions to be their measure of wealth instead of treasuring the immaterial wealth that surpasses earth and the earthly.

#### 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</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>

#### 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

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

### First Reading

*Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23*

*What do people gain by all their work?*

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity! For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17*

**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. **R.**

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **R.**



### Second Reading

*Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11*

*Seek the things that are above where Christ is.*

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and, in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 5:3*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Luke 12:13-21*

*To whom will all this wealth of yours go?*

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say, to my soul: 'My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time.' But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

### Communion Antiphon

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

## CONTACTS

### PARISH OFFICE

#### Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

#### Office Contacts

☎ (02) 8883 5981

(A/H 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 [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 your home,  
please organise with the parish office.

### Rosary Statue Family Roster

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	
Dec	2	9	16	23	30
	Siu SG	Barnouti	Sebastian	Paguinto	Paguinto

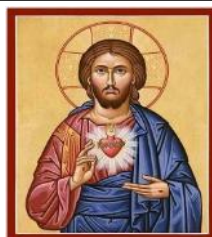
*"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"*

### HOLY HOUR

Eucharistic Adoration

every Wednesday at 8:00PM

**Eucharistic Adoration will be moved  
to 6-7pm ONLY on the following  
Wednesday date 6<sup>th</sup> 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*

Holy Spirit,  
you always come to enfold us in  
your peace. And when within us  
dwells a joy drawn from the  
Gospel, it is capable of bringing us  
a bread of life.

## 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

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

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

## August Calendar

Mon	4	<i>Saint John Vianney (M)</i> 8:30am - Mass
Tues	5	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary prayer 7:30pm - Novena mass Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	6	<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord (F)</i> 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	7	9:15am - Mass
Fri	8	<i>Saint Mary of the Cross (S)</i> 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - HOPEFEST for 7PM start
Sat	9	9:00am - Mass 10:00am - HOPEFEST 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	10	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 11:30am - HOPEFEST 6:00pm - Mass

# UPCOMING Community



**Thank you for  
your support**  
*Cake Angels*

Once again, a big heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our stall such a big success - whether you lent a hand with sales, brought food or made a donation, we truly appreciate it!

We're also delighted to welcome our new members to this amazing group - it's wonderful to have you with us.

And most importantly, thank you to all our parishioners for your ongoing support of the Cake Angels Stall. Your continued support and generosity mean so much to our Parish Community.

We were able to raise \$2.4k which is all donated to our church funds.

### Register for the 2025 Greater Sydney Community Sleepout

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

**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 241 996

**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, Woy Woy 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.

#### 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

#### 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.

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

# 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

**REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE MISSION ENHANCEMENT TEAM (MET) VIA [MET@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG](mailto:MET@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG)**

**REGISTER HERE:**

## 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 BUILDING  
160 PERFECTION AVENUE, STANHOPE GARDENS

## HOPE FEST

**SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 10AM-12PM**

**HOPE IN THE WORD**

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

ALL AGES WELCOME  
ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH BUILDING  
160 PERFECTION AVENUE, STANHOPE GARDENS

## 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](https://parracatholic.org/events/hopefest)

**HOPEFEST** is a Diocesan Jubilee of Hope. A three-day experience for all ages hosted by St John XXIII Parish, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens.

Experiences will include praise & worship, life & faith workshops and a local pilgrimage from SJXXIII Parish to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents at Kellyville with community activities and opportunities to celebrate the sacraments.

Come and join. Register via <https://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.

### FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

For donation, please contact James David on 0413 787596






### ⇒ 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)

IN THIS YEAR OF JUBILEE

We celebrate all those involved in Music Ministry across the Diocese of Parramatta

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## MASS FOR MUSICIANS

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To be celebrated by  
Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL

WEDNESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2025  
7:30PM

St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta  
1 Marist Pl, Parramatta

RSVP by 19 September, 2025  
[ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) | 0460 037 795

*with the number of guests attending for seating and catering purposes*



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*

Violeta Laraya, Trinidad Reloba

### Remembrances:

Ariel Bautista, Ma Ruby Cabrera

### Anniversary:

Felicisimo R Esteban, Cristina Arceo, Alex de Leon

### 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 Dadivas, 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 Busuttil, Perla Magculang, Fausto Bayot, Marilyn Nalapo, Jerwin McCarron, Troy James, Mary Phillips, Elsie Knapp, Barbara Thompson, Carlo Bueno, Joshua McCarroll, Dudley Francis, Jude Newnes, Marcelino Matteazi, Zena Samar, Helen West, Brendan Prideaux, Natasha Leitao, Emma Q Fernando, Victor Pons, Lily Camilleri, Alvin, Babies with Blister disease

### Thanksgiving:

Ravi & Bernadette Virwani, Felix Borromeo, Corazon & Jess Perez & Family, Ma Christelle Reodique

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



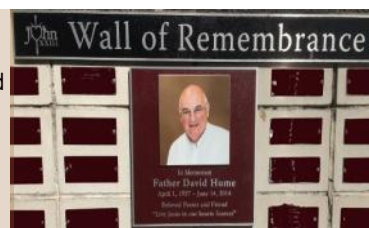
### COLUMBARIUM

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



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## Parables of Jesus: A Guide to Parables in the Bible, What They Are and Why Jesus Used Them

Stephen Spiewak

In His birth, Jesus changed the world with the incarnation: God became man. His death and Resurrection changed eternity, conquering death and securing a path for salvation for others.

In His short public ministry, Jesus's words also transformed humanity, challenging conventional wisdom, demonstrating servant leadership and calling on his followers to demonstrate a radical love to build God's kingdom on earth.

He often did this through parables.

Parables compose a large share of Jesus's words captured in the Gospels. He delivered some of his most memorable lessons through parables. Terms like "Good Samaritan" and "Prodigal Son" have transcended religion and become terms people of all faiths recognize.

For Catholics and other Christians, parables are not simply a collection of Bible verses or stories we learn in school. They are dynamic lessons that continue to take on new significance and meaning in an ever-changing world.

### What Is a Parable?

According to the dictionary, parables are short allegorical stories designed to teach a truth, religious principle, or moral lesson.

They are often engaging stories that contain few details but are ripe with meaning.

Parables have a place in the tradition of Jewish storytelling. Jesus's parables used elements of everyday life to illustrate a more profound message. In modern times, parables are almost always associated with Jesus.

### The Number of Parables

The precise number of parables in the Bible varies based on different definitions of what a parable is.

By some counts, Jesus gave us more than 30 parables in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Others suggest the total number of parables by Jesus totals more than 50.

The number of distinct parables Jesus offers us is less important than the message they bear.

### The Purpose of Parables—Why did Jesus Use Them?

Jesus encountered so many different groups of people during his public ministry.

He spent time with his disciples, with Pharisees, with large crowds of strangers who were listening to him for the first time.

Jesus needed to engage wildly different groups of people, so he told stories that were able to draw in diverse crowds with different points of view.

With parables, Jesus told stories that revealed the truth about God's kingdom while simultaneously challenging the commonly held world views of many of those to whom He spoke.

Just as Jesus addressed crowds years ago, he speaks to all of us today, challenging us to open our hearts to his message.

### Common Themes in Parables

Jesus made references to the ordinary that would resonate with his followers, using everyday concepts to draw in his audiences.

He taught lessons to followers through images of plants, vines, seeds and sowers. He shared parables about family dynamics, dinner parties and weddings.

Many of the parables Jesus shared touched on familiar themes, including:

- Love
- Forgiveness
- God's Kingdom
- Prayer
- Redemption
- End times

The Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke contain the most parables; no parables are found in John's Gospel.

One other commonality with parables is that they often challenge the way we view the world.

*"By shattering the structures of our accepted world, parables remove our defenses and make us vulnerable to God,"* Catholic theologian Barbara E. Reid writes.

### Popular Parables

Parables resonate differently with each of us, and we all may have our favorites. Here are some that stand out as well-known and oft-cited parables of Jesus:

- Parable of the Sower
- Parable of the Talents
- Parable of the Prodigal Son
- Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Parable of the Mustard Seed

### Why We Should Pray with Parables

Jesus does not always explain in-depth the parables He shares. He often omits many details, rarely mentioning people by name.

The lack of explicit explanation and detail prompts us to prayerfully consider the meaning of parables for us in our time and circumstance.

"Over the ages each community of Christians has had to work out their responses to the challenges of Jesus' teaching," according to Barbara E. Reid. "This task is no less incumbent upon believers today."

Parables are as important now as they were when the followers of Jesus heard them. When we spend time in prayer with the parables, we open our hearts to God's message and what it means for us in our lives.

Since the parables rarely celebrate the status quo, praying with the parables can help us consider how might better help to build God's kingdom here on earth.

### Common Questions About Parables

**How many parables of Jesus are there?** There is no official number of exact parables from Jesus. Sometimes, Jesus explicitly called something a parable; other times, he shares parables without explicitly saying so. In other instances, he shares a single line or two that feels like a parable.

**Why did Jesus speak in parables?** Parables allowed Jesus to challenge conventional wisdom and encourage His audience to consider a deeper meaning to His words.

**Why did Jesus not interpret all of His parables?** The parables call us to consider how God wants us to live and act. They call people across time periods, cultures and geographies to reflect on their meaning.

**How do parables and fables differ?** Parables feature people in everyday situations. Fables often center around animals or other non-humans.

**What did Jesus say about parables?** In Matthew 13:13, Jesus says, "This is why I speak to them in parables: 'Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.'"

<https://ballow.com/blog/parables-of-jesus/>

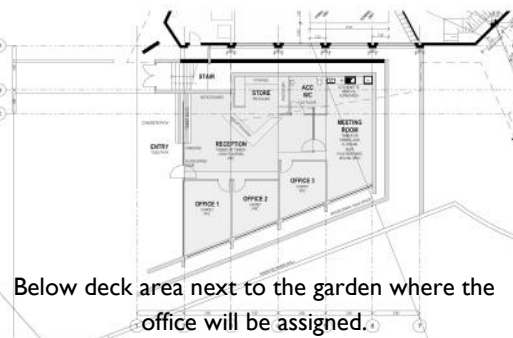


## Proposed Church Extension

Please pray for the realization of our proposed parish office and extension and gathering hall. Below pictured is an updated proposed plan.



Upper deck area next to the church foyer.



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

## 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 [ignite.stjohn23@gmail.com](mailto:ignite.stjohn23@gmail.com) or DM on @ignite\_sj23



### MORE YOUTH GROUPS

<b>CRL</b> (Community of the Risen Lord)	Rojith de Silva 0405 9563210 Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009	<b>YFC (Youth for Christ)</b> Australia International	Dominic Lim 0468 826253 Ronan Limguangco 0478 629629
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### BLAZE CLENDAR



26 July	8 August	22 August
8 September	19 September	



**BLAZE** would like to welcome all Year 7-12 children to join us for our session dates listed above!

Please note that the session on the **8th of August** will be held in the church. We will be attending **FaithFeed** that night, which is a praise and worship experience for all. It'll run from 7pm-9pm. All children under 18 will need to fill in a permission slip to attend this event. The form can be found on the diocese of parramatta website.

All other sessions will run as per normal from 7pm-9pm in Bell space at St John XXIII Catholic College. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [blaze@john23rd.org.au](mailto:blaze@john23rd.org.au).

We hope to see you them.



**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**

**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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