

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

Links between passages are important; they help hold otherwise apparently disconnected episodes in thematic groupings. The opening parable in today's gospel (Luke 16:1-13) is linked both to the main parable in last Sunday's gospel reading (Luke 15:1-32) and to next Sunday's (16:19-31). The first link is lost if the shorter form of the gospel was read last Sunday; where our Jerusalem Bible translation says that last Sunday's prodigal son "squandered" his property and that today's steward was denounced for "being wasteful" with his master's possessions, the Greek uses a single verb that may translate also as "disperse" or "scatter", always indicating something disruptive, never liberal giving. The link to next Sunday's parable is also lost if today's shorter form (16:10-13) is read, for both parables begin "There was a rich man..."

Today's shorter form of the gospel also omits one of the cues for next Sunday's parable, "use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity" (16:9). This translation is problematic for apparently suggesting money is in itself a negative thing. A literal rendering reads "the mammon (or treasure) of unrighteousness", but perhaps "ill-gotten gains" would be more familiar to us. The equivalent expression is found in Proverbs 10:2, and its opposite (treasures of righteousness) in Isaiah 33:6. Very few people would accept that all wealth or possessions are falsely gained, or agree that "Property is theft", but perhaps the gospel is pointing to a critique of the social and economic system that results in a widening disparity as some grow wealthier and many more become poorer. This does not mean that the wealthy are bad people, but that the system itself promotes disparity. The same concerns surface on Sunday 28B (Mark 10:17-30) and were fore-echoed by the Lord's announcing of his mission at the beginning of his public ministry (Luke 4:18-19 – omitted from our Lectionary),

which contains a reference to the Jubilee, the year for resetting land ownership and remitting debts.

The wasteful steward in today's parable recognises that his position was at risk, and amends affairs to set up a friendly reception elsewhere, a move that won the approval of his master for its astuteness. Modern readers find this perplexing and could ask why the others who had their debts reduced would trust him with their own property should they employ him. Some suggestions are that it was normal for servants to add their own commission; it was how they were paid, and so this steward would be seen as reducing his own cut, thus as being thrifty, not as grafting.

Many parables in Luke's gospel have complex overlapping themes, and while some are more prominent, those of these three Sundays (that is, last Sunday, today, and next Sunday) all feature the use of possessions, but each with a different orientation; last Sunday's prodigal son consumed his goods self-indulgently, today's steward used his master's wastefully, and next Sunday's rich man uses his selfishly—at which time the figure of Abraham is used, the wealthy man who used his possessions generously. Altogether they refer to a quality needed for disciples of Jesus, even if they do not always teach about it directly: the disciples of Jesus are not to be attached to possessions and need to be willing to use them for the good of others and according to the vision of the kingdom of heaven.

Our Parish Mission

The Parish of St John XXIII is a faith community with the Eucharist as its heart. Inspired by John XXIII's prophetic opening of the windows of the Church, we welcome the fresh air of the Holy Spirit, inviting every person to share in the responsibility of enriching the life and faith of our community by sharing their gifts and talents."

Mass Times

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mon | 8:30am |
| Tues-Fri | 9:15am |
| Sat | 9.00am, 6pm Vigil |
| Sun | 7:30am 9am 10:30am 6pm |
| Holy Cross Primary School | |
| Wed | 9:15am during school days |
| 2nd Sat | 7:30pm Indonesian Mass |

Masses of Devotion

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

Exposition + Benediction

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1st Fri | after 9.15am, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 8:00pm Holy Hour |

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

| | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| Sun | 12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i> |
|------------|------------------------------------|

Prayers

| | |
|------------|--|
| Tue | 7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers (<i>Church Tabernacle</i>) |
| Fri | 6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group (<i>office</i>) Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039 |

Special Blessings

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Blessing during masses | |
| 1st Sun | Birthday celebrants |
| 3rd Sun | 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

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Ambrose Early Learning

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
☎ (02) 9852 0585
✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
🌐 www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood
Principal: Attila Lendvai
☎ (02) 8664 7100
✉ holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au
🌐 www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au

St John XXIII Catholic College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
A/Principal: Frank Chiment
☎ (02) 9852 0500
✉ stjohn23stanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
🌐 www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading

Amos 8:4-7

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?

Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'

The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 112:1-2, 4-8

R. Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore! **R.**

High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven and earth? **R.**

From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dungheap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. **R.**



Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone - petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving - and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and - I am telling the truth and no lie - a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 16:10-13

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



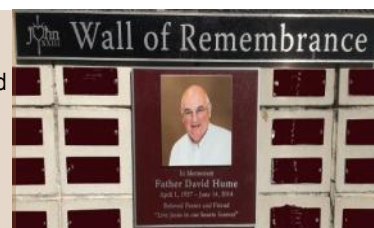
COLUMBARIUM

For our parishioners who are planning to buy a Niche, do so without delay, because we always want to prioritise members of our parish who wish to buy the Niches. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

MEMORIAL WALL

The wall in front of the church is devoted to the memory of our deceased family and friends, especially if they are buried overseas.

For any enquiries please email columbarium@john23rd.org.au
The plaques cost \$600.00



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



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



**Young at Hearts
Seniors Group contacts**
Contact either of the following:
Frank Coleiro - 0459 504625
Trevor Coutinho - 0407 150399



Vinnies
join the good works
Message Rose Franco 0401 387427

CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

Office Contacts

☎ (02) 8883 5981

(AH Emergency)

📞 0434 033 326

160 Perfection Avenue,
Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768

MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,
NSW 2768

CLERGY

Parish Priest:

Fr Jolly Chacko

✉ jolly@john23rd.org.au

📞 0417 541 637 (emergency only)

Assistant Priest:

Fr Bartholomew Chukwu

✉ chukwu@john23rd.org.au

STAFF

Secretary:

Tanya Gatt

✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au

Finance:

Renuka Soosaipillai

✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

✉ sacramental@john23rd.org.au

OTHER CONTACTS

Parish Council:

John McCabe

✉ johnmccabe5@gmail.com

Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ maintenance@john23rd.org.au

Columbarium queries:

✉ columbarium@john23rd.org.au

Never miss our Bulletin

If you would like to be included in
our mailing list

✉ communications@john23rd.org.au

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish community!

Please take a welcome pack from
the church foyer

Visit our website

<http://john23rd.com/>

Like our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/john23rdparish

COELIACS

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

HOMEBOUND

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



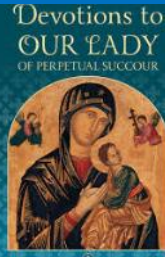
Office for Safeguarding Parramatta Way is to:

◆ Act with Justice, and state that
we have a zero tolerance for any
form of abuse or harm to
children or any person

◆ Act with justice and ensure that
laws and obligations are upheld,
and safety is paramount
<https://safeguarding.org.au/>

Praying together

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



Rosary | novena prayers Tuesday at 7:00PM and Novena mass

First Tuesdays 7:30pm

Rosary statue roster
contacts Techie Sarlabus
techie.sarlabus@gmail.com or
Melva Paguinto
emcipi85@yahoo.com.au

HOLY HOUR

Eucharistic
Adoration

Wednesdays
8:00PM



Novena Mass Our Sacred Heart of Jesus

First Fridays
7:30PM with
exposition and
adoration
Sacrament.

Rosary Statue Family Roster

| Sep | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | Hala | Valdez | Tangunan | 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 |
| | Cruz CG | Barnouti | Sebastian | Paguinto | Paguinto |
| Jan | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| | Ruggiero | available | Barnouti | Tangunan | |

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

PRAYING in the SILENCE of the HEART with Brother

Roger of Taizé
Holy Spirit, breath of
God's loving, our prayer
may be very humble, yet
by the Gospel we
understand that you are
praying even in the silence
of our hearts.

PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING TO COMPLETION OF OUR NEW PARISH OFFICE & HALL

Almighty God, we thank you for your many blessings to our parish and to each of us.

We pray for your guidance and wisdom as we prepare ourselves to begin the construction. May your Holy spirit be with all our Engineers, architects, builders and all involved in this project. Protect them from harm and grant them skill and diligence. May this hall be a place of unity, fellowship and faith formation for our community, a space where we can grow in faith and serve others.

Bless all our sponsors, donors and each of us who contribute in our own humble ways and means.

Whatever we do, may we do it for your glory.

St. Joseph, the patron of families and workers, Pray for us

St. John XXIII, Patron of our parish, Pray for us

ST. Vincent Ferrer, Patron of all builders, Pray for us

Ways we can help

- Make a personal or family donation;
- Pledge a regular amount for this project over the next 12 months;
- Be a general sponsor or of a specific area;
- Organize an event that could raise some funds;
- Share the campaign with family, friends or local business.

We are the stewards of our parish, and we are not just building a hall, we are building the heart of our thriving parish Community. Ideally, if we can find 350 people with a gift of \$3000 each, we can achieve this. In saying this we also invite gifts of any amount, according to your giving ability and most importantly to give with a happy heart. Let us all dream together as Father jolly always says.

From the PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ways to donate

Bank transfer

Account name : Blessed John XXIII Parish

BSB : 067 950 A/C : 00000313

Reference: BD (your name)

Amounts raised



BPOINT

For credit card donation visit

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIPG.SG>

or scan the QR code



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 provides for the running costs of our church, ministry 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.

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.

UPCOMING Community EVENTS



Cake Angel's Kitchen

Product details

Name: Filipino Buttery Biscocho

Weight: 265 grams per bag

Price: \$5

Quantity available: 9 bags for \$45

Contact: Madeline - 0423 777 430

If each individual can gather up orders for 9 bags to share amongst friends and family. Can be delivered, upon request. Proceeds will go to the church hall project.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

PARENT MEETING

Tuesday 23rd September, 7pm
in the church.

Children who are baptised
Catholic and are in Year 3 or
above are welcome to enroll.



Dear Parishioners and members of Various ministries,

This year we celebrate the diamond jubilee of the Second Vatican Council, a special time for all of us to examine and reflect on our journey as the people of God. The second Vatican Council highlights the importance of all the people, clergy and laity walking together as part of the mission of our Lord.

Pope John XXIII was the man behind the Second Vatican Council. He inspired every Christian through his words, deeds and vision. Our parish is the only parish in our Diocese named after this Holy Visionary Pope and Saint. In this regard it is a special year for our parish and the parish plans to have a grand celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Second Vatican Council and the Feast of St John XXIII together.

We request each of you to actively participate in these celebrations and benefit spiritually. It is a time to deepen our faith and a sense of community. We start our celebrations on the 7th October with the Feast of The Holy Rosary and end on the 12th October with a Solemn Mass at 10:30AM, blessing of the designated Land for our new parish office and hall, and community lunch and games.

Thanking every one of you for being part of this great parish and supporting the parish community.

Fr Jolly

Fr Jolly Chacko, MS
Parish Priest

St John XXIII CELEBRATIONS

12 OCT 2025

10:30am Holy Mass is celebrated by Fr. Peter Williams along with our combined choir

FOOD & SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS

BLESSING OF NEW BUILDING - FREE ENTRY - FREE FOOD - FREE DRINKS - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

CNR PERFECTION AVE & BENTWOOD TCE, STANHOPE GARDENS

MOORE INFO: 02 8860 5961
HTTP://WWW.STJOHNXXIII.COM HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STJOHNXXIII PARISH WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/STJOHNXXIII

Feast of St John XXIII

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

Tuesday, 7 October 2025

• 6:30pm - Rosary

• 7pm - Mass & Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help

Novena & Mass for St John XXIII

Wednesday, 8 October 2025

• Starting at 7pm

Novena & Mass for St John XXIII

Thursday, 9 October 2025

• Starting at 7pm

Novena & Mass for St John XXIII

Friday, 10 October 2025

• Starting at 7pm

St John XXIII Feast Day

Saturday, 11 October 2025

• 4:45pm - Praise and Worship

• 6pm - Vigil Mass

ST JOHN XXIII FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, 12 October 2025

• 10:30am - Holy Mass is celebrated by Fr. Peter Williams

• Accompanied by our combined choir

• Food & Special Entertainment

Organizers:

- Community Building & Rosary team
- Winies
- Caka Angela

Organizers:

- Rose's Land Community
- Parish Pastoral Council
- Finance Committee
- Young at Heart

Organizers:

- Indonesian Prayer Group
- YFC International & Australia
- St. John XXIII Prayer Group

Organizers:

- Ignite & Blaze
- Alpha
- Couples for Christ



A few Y A H seniors enjoying coffee, breakfast and a chat at 'The Local Shed' on a gorgeous spring day.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
WE NEED YOUR HELP

VOLUNTEER AT THE ST JOHN XXIII FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

We are looking for volunteers to help in celebrations for the Feast Day of our Parish Patron, Pope St John XXIII.

St John XXIII Catholic Church

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.



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

⇒ 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 or the parish office.

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

For donation, please contact James David on 0413 787596

.....
We would like to extend our gratitude to those who continually support and donate flowers for the altar.



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

Salomie Kurisinkal, Cynthia Gomes, Merita Fernando

Remembrances:

Emelita Perez, Virginia Martin

Anniversary:

Theresa Mendonca, Manuel Barcelon, Ammini Joseph, Patrick Cherry

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, Elizabeth Langley Maria Romeo, Geoffrey Robinson, Manuel Sarris, Ryan Dixon, Rosie Carbonel, Virginia Santos, Charlie Busuttill, Imelda Vinluan, Ksenija Bosnic, Myrna Manalili, Raymond Lanzona, Louise Smith, Carlo Bueno, Peter Dawson, Lenka Olivier Talija, Troy James, Elizabeth Candame, Zoey Illic, Jonathan Gemin, Obet Dionisio, Isagani Ocampo, Carrie Conolly, Jerwin McCarron, Lily Camilleri, Natasha Leitao, Perla Magculang, Fausto Bayot, Marilyn Nalapo, Joshua McCarroll, Mary Phillips, Dudley Francis, Jakov & Marija Franich, Bev Lewis, Zena Samar, Hilary Regan, Elsie Knapp, Barbara Thompson, Jude Newnes, Marcelino Matteazi, Victor Pons, Emma Q Fernando, Brendan Prideaux, Alvin, Gerald Simbulan, Helen West, 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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for caring for our spiritual fathers. Because of your compassion, our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal raised over \$X (parish administrator to provide) to provide much-needed care and support for those who have dedicated their lives to serving our community. Your generosity and love ensure they receive the care, comfort and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code.

Thank you.



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 blaze@john23rd.org.au or DM @blazeyouthsj23 on Insta | FB



IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS

WHO: 18 - 35 years of age
WHEN: First Sundays each month
TIME: 7:00 - 9:30pm
WHERE: St John XXIII Staffroom

For any queries please either email gnite.stjohn23@gmail.com or DM on @ignite_sj23



MORE YOUTH GROUPS

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

Rojith de Silva 0405 9563210
Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009

YFC (Youth for Christ)

Dominic Lim 0468 826253 Australia
Ronan Limuangco 0478 629629 International

A Walk Through the Mass: A Step-by-Step Explanation

Catholics know what is going to happen next. One of the basic, distinctive marks of our way of praying is ritual: We do things over and over. When the priest says, “The Lord be with you,” without any thought or hesitation the congregation responds, “And with your Spirit.” The priest says, “Let us pray,” and the congregation stands up. Our daily lives have their rituals also: There are set ways of greeting people, eating, responding to a text. And when we are accustomed to a certain way of doing things we seldom ask why we do it that way. In the Eucharist, too, we have many ritual actions which we perform without asking why.

What is the Mass or Liturgy?

A good way to describe the Mass is to say that it is Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday made present today in ritual. It is not merely a meal which reminds us of the Last Supper, or a Passion play which helps recall Good Friday, or a Sunrise Service which celebrates the Lord's Resurrection.

The basic “shape” of the ritual of the Mass can be described as a meal. This is not to say it is “just another meal” or that we are ignoring the Mass as sacrifice. Not at all. The point is, the shape of the Mass, even when viewed as sacrifice, is that of a meal. *When friends gather for a meal, they sit and talk; Eventually they move to the table, say grace, pass the food and eat and drink, and finally take their leave and go home. On our walk through the Mass we will follow this same map: we will see ritual acts of 1) gathering, 2) storytelling, 3) meal sharing and 4) commissioning.*

Part one: Gathering rites

Coming together, assembling, is at the heart of our Sunday worship. The reason behind each of the ritual actions of the first part of the Mass can be found in this word: gathering. The purpose of these rites is to bring us together into one body, ready to listen and to break bread together.

Greeters. In many churches today there will be someone at the door to greet you as you arrive for Sunday Mass: We all like to be greeted and welcomed when we gather for a celebration. When friends come for a meal or a party, we greet them at the door and welcome them into our home.

Use of water. One of the first things Catholics do when they come to church is dip their right hand in water and make the sign of the cross. This ritual is a reminder of our Baptism: We were baptized with water and signed with the cross. At every Mass we renew our promises to die to sin.

Genuflection. In medieval Europe, it was a custom to go down on one knee (to genuflect) before a king or person of rank. This secular mark of honor gradually entered the Church and people began to genuflect to honor the altar and the presence of Christ in the tabernacle before entering the pew. Today many people express their reverence with an even older custom and bow to the altar before taking their place.

Posture, song. When the Mass begins everyone stands up. Standing is the traditional posture of the Christian at prayer: It expresses our attentiveness to the word of God and our readiness to carry it out. Often we begin by singing together. What better way to gather than to unite our thoughts and our voices in common word, rhythm and melody. (all the parts of music, harmony, melody, different instruments—separate they are not complete)

Greeting. The priest will ask us to begin with the sign of the cross, again reminding us of Baptism, and will greet us, saying, “The Lord be with you.” You will hear this greeting frequently. It means many things. Like “good day” it can mean both “hello” and “good-bye.” It is both a wish (may the Lord be with you) and a profound statement of faith (as you assemble for worship, the Lord is with you). It is an ancient biblical greeting: Boaz returned from Bethlehem (we read in the Book of Ruth 2:4) and said to the reapers, “The Lord be with you!” The ritual response to this greeting is always the formula, “And with your spirit,” by which we return the hello, the good wishes, the statement of faith.

Penitential Rite, Gloria. All the other ritual acts of this first part of the Mass are intended to gather us together into a worshipping assembly. Sometimes we are asked to pause and recall our common need for salvation (the Penitential Rite). Sometimes the hymn “Glory to God in the Highest” is sung or recited at this point. The “Gloria” has been a part of the Mass since about the sixth century! These longer hymns and responses are found in the missalette at our seat.

Opening Prayer. At the close of this first part of the Mass the priest will ask us to join our minds in prayer, and after a few moments of silence he will collect our intentions into one prayer to which we all respond “Amen,” a Hebrew word for “So be it.”

Part two: Story telling

Liturgy of the Word. When we gather at a friend's home for a meal, we always begin with conversation, telling our stories. At Mass, after the rites of gathering, we sit down and listen as readings from the Word of God are proclaimed. They are the stories of God's people.

Three readings and a psalm. On Sundays there are three readings from the Bible. The first reading will be from the Hebrew Scriptures. (except during the Easter season) We recall the origins of our covenant. It will relate to the Gospel selection and will give background and an insight into the meaning of what Jesus will do in the Gospel. Then we will sing or recite a psalm—a song from God's own inspired hymnal, the Book of Psalms of the Hebrew Bible. The second reading will usually be from one of the letters of Paul or another apostolic writing. The third reading will be taken from one of the four Gospels. Some visitors to the Catholic Mass are surprised to find us reading from the Bible! We have not generally been famous for our Bible reading, and yet the Mass has always been basically and fundamentally biblical. Even some Catholics might be surprised to learn how much of the Mass is taken from the Bible: Not only the three readings and the psalm, not only the obviously biblical prayers such as the Holy, Holy, Holy and the Lord's Prayer, but most of the words and phrases of the prayers of the Mass are taken from the Bible.

Standing for the Gospel. *Because of the unique presence of Christ in the proclamation of the Gospel, it has long been the custom to stand in attentive reverence to hear these words. We believe that Christ “is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the church” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #7). The priest will again greet us with “The Lord be with you.” He then introduces the Gospel reading while marking a small cross on his forehead, lips and heart with his thumb while praying silently that God cleans his mind and his heart so that his lips may worthily proclaim the Gospel. In many places, the congregation performs this ritual action along with the priest.* The Gospel reading concludes with the ritual formula “The Gospel of the Lord” and we respond, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,” again proclaiming our faith in the presence of Christ in the word. Then we sit for the homily.

Homily. It means more than just a sermon or a talk about how we are to live or what we are to believe. It is an act of worship rooted in the texts of the Mass and especially in the readings from Scripture which have just been proclaimed. *The homily takes that word and brings it to our life situation today. Just as a large piece of bread is broken to feed individual persons, the word of God must be broken open so it can be received and digested by the congregation.*

Creed. Now we stand and together recite the creed. The creed is more than a list of things which we believe. It is a statement of our faith in the word we have heard proclaimed in the Scripture and the homily, and a profession of the faith that leads us to give our lives for one another as Christ gave his life for us.

Universal Prayer. The Liturgy of the Word (our “storytelling” part of the Mass) comes to an end with the intercessions. The intercessions help us become who God is calling us to be. We are the Body of Christ by Baptism. Now, as we prepare to approach the table for Eucharist, we look into the readings, like a mirror, and ask: Is that who we are? Does the Body of Christ present in this assembly resemble that Body of Christ pictured in the Scripture readings? Usually not! And so we make some adjustments; we pray that our assembly really comes to look like the Body of Christ, a body at peace, with shelter for the homeless, healing for the sick, food for the hungry. We pray for the Church, nations and their leaders, people in special need and the local needs of our parish—the petitions usually fall into these four categories. A minister will announce the petitions, and we are usually given an opportunity to pray for the intentions in our heart, making some common response aloud like, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Part three: Meal sharing

After the readings, we move to the table. As at a meal in the home of a friend, we 1) set the table, 2) say grace and 3) share the food (we eat and drink). At Mass these ritual actions are called 1) the Preparation of the Gifts, 2) the Eucharistic Prayer, 3) the Communion Rite.

Preparation of the Gifts

The early Christians each brought some bread and wine from their homes to the church to be used for the Mass and to be given to the clergy and the poor. Today a similar offering for the parish and the poor is made with our monetary contributions. Members of the parish will take up a collection from the assembly and bring it to the priest at the altar with the bread and wine to be used for the sacrifice. The priest places the bread and wine on the table. He then mixes water with the wine and washes his hands to help us think of the Last Supper. (Mixing water with wine and washing hands are things all Jews did at meals in Jesus' day.) Finally, he invites us to pray that the sacrifice be acceptable to God. We respond “Amen” to the Prayer Over the Gifts and stand to participate in the central prayer of the Mass.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The long prayer which follows brings us to the very center of the Mass and the heart of our faith. While the words of the prayer may vary from Sunday to Sunday, the prayer always has this structure:



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

23 September - NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING Initial instruction - Zoom

An Introductory Session for the Billings Ovulation Method will take place on Tuesday, 23 September at 7:30pm. This session offers guidance on understanding your fertility, managing conception, and naturally spacing pregnancies through the Billings Ovulation Method.

Private and confidential instruction is also available. For more information and to register, please [CLICK HERE](#).

26 October - WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

You are warmly invited to attend the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to be held Sunday 26th October. Please join us for 2pm Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta celebrated by Bishop Vincent followed by afternoon tea at the Cathedral Hall. All couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate from Bishop Vincent.

Please register your name, years of marriage and numbers attending to marriage@parracatholic.org by 15th October. Family and friends are welcome.

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

continued

1) We call upon God to remember all the wonderful saving deeds of our history. 2) We recall the central event in our history, Jesus Christ, and in particular the memorial he left us on the night before he died. We recall his passion, death and resurrection. 3) After gratefully calling to mind all the wonderful saving acts God has done for us in the past, we petition God to continue those deeds of Christ in the present: We pray that we may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

Invitation. The prayer begins with a dialogue between the leader and the assembly. First, the priest greets us with "The Lord be with you." He then asks if we are ready and willing to approach the table and to renew our baptismal commitment, offering ourselves to God: "Lift up your hearts." And we say that we are prepared to do so: "We lift them up to the Lord." We are invited to give thanks to the Lord our God. And we respond: "It is right and just." To "give thanks" translates the traditional Greek verb which now names the whole action: Eucharist.

Preface and Acclamation. The priest enters into the Preface, a prayer which prepares us to come before the face of God. We are brought into God's presence and speak of how wonderful God has been to us. As the wonders of God are told, the assembly cannot hold back their joy and sing aloud: "Wow! Wow! Wow! What a God we have!" In the ritual language of the Mass, this acclamation takes the form: "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. / Heaven and earth are full of your glory."

Institution Narrative: Consecration. The priest continues the prayer, giving praise and thanks, and calling upon the Holy Spirit to change our gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. He then recalls the events of the Last Supper—the institution of the Eucharist. At this important moment in the prayer, we proclaim the mystery of faith. Several texts are possible, for example: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, / and profess your Resurrection / until you come again." The priest continues recalling the wonderful deeds of salvation: the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

Prayer for unity and intercessions. The grateful memory of God's salvation leads us to make a bold petition, our main petition at every Eucharist: We pray for unity. "Humbly we pray / that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, / we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit" (Eucharistic Prayer II). To this petition we add prayers for the Bishop of Rome and for the bishop of the local Church; we pray for the living and the dead and especially for ourselves that through the intercession of the saints we may one day arrive at that table in heaven of which this table is only a hint and a taste. We look forward to that glorious day and raise our voices with those of all the saints who have gone before us as the priest raises the consecrated bread and wine and offers a toast, a doxology, a prayer of glory to God in the name of Christ: "Through him, and with him, and in him, / O God, almighty Father, / in the unity of the Holy Spirit, / all glory and honor is yours, / for ever and ever." Our "Amen" to this prayer acclaims our assent and participation in the entire Eucharistic Prayer.

The Communion Rite

Our Father and Sign of Peace. We prepare to eat and drink at the Lord's Table with those words taught us by Jesus: "Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Keenly aware that communion (the word means "union with") is the sign and source of our reconciliation and union with God and with one another; we make a gesture of union and forgiveness with those around us and offer them a sign of peace.

Invitation to Communion. The priest then shows us the Body of Christ and invites us to come to the table: "Behold the Lamb of God....Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." The members of the assembly now approach the altar in procession.

Communion. As God fed our ancestors in the desert on their pilgrimage, so God gives us food for our journey. We approach the minister who gives us the Eucharistic bread with the words "The Body of Christ," and we respond, "Amen." We then go to the minister with the cup who gives it to us with the words "The Blood of Christ," to which we again profess our "Amen." During this procession we usually sing a hymn which unites our voices, minds and thoughts, even as the Body and Blood of Christ unites our bodies. Then we pray silently in our hearts, thanking and praising God and asking for all that this sacrament promises. The priest unites our prayers in the Prayer After Communion, to which we respond, "Amen."

Part four: Commissioning

Announcements. Finally we prepare to go back to that world in which we will live for the coming week. The burdens we have laid down at the door of the church for this Eucharist, we know we must now bear again—but now strengthened by this Eucharist and this community. There may be announcements at this time which remind us of important activities coming up in the parish. The priest again says, "The Lord be with you"—the ritual phrase serves now as a farewell.

Blessing and Dismissal. We bow our heads to receive a blessing. As the priest names the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—we make the Sign of the Cross. The priest or deacon then dismisses the assembly: "Go in peace." And we give our liturgical "yes" by saying, "Thanks be to God."

Living the Eucharist in the world. We leave the assembly and the church building—but we carry something with us. What happens in our lives during the week gives deeper meaning to the ritual actions we have celebrated at Mass, whether it's family, work with poor or just plain work. It is only in relation to our daily lives that the full meaning of the ritual actions of the Mass becomes clear to us.

<https://presentationparish.org/>

Indonesian Mass



Every Second
Saturday, 7.30pm
St John 23rd Church

Please come and celebrate
The Eucharist together
(Indonesian Language)

Risen Lord Community Praise & Worship Night



7.30pm
FRIDAYS,
St John 23rd
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.



QUAKERS HILL FAMILY PRACTICE

- Multi Doctor practice with Christian values at the core
- In-house Allied health and Dental clinic

Complements from Quakers Hill
Family Practice

Books are now open for new patients

Tel – 02 9626 6300
www.qhfp.com.au

Climate airconditioning

DESIGN // INSTALLATIONS // SERVICE // REPAIRS

0400 841 601



Holy Family
Services



Retiring



Early Learning
Centre



Aged Care

holyfamilyservices.com.au • Call us: 9678 8200

A Ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

Thinking of Selling or
Renting Out Your House?



Call Julia Stella 0431 277 110

Over 20 years of Real Estate
Experience, I'm sure you'll be
delighted with your outcome! 🏡

Stella & Co
REAL ESTATE

www.stellaandcorealestate.com.au

Open 7 Days Open 7 Days

MINCHINBURY
Fruit Market

1039 Great Western Hwy, Minchinbury NSW 2770

Your Local Grocer Since 1960

Maltese Food

- Maltese Biscuits
- Three Hills Kunsewa
- Pastizzi & Ravioli
- Mayor Zalza & Sugo
- Zalzett
- Kinnie



- * Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- * Huge Selection of General & Continental Groceries
- * Frozen Foods Section * Delicatessen in store



Phone: 9625 8021

Email: admin@minchinburyfruitmarket.com.au



magnō KITCHENS

kitchens • laundries • vanities • wardrobes

4577 9575

magnokitchens.com.au



Michael Xiberras
0412 914 332

Call Michael for all of your plumbing needs

- ✓ plumbing
- ✓ gas fitting
- ✓ blockage clearing
- ✓ backflow prevention
- ✓ cctv in pipe camera inspections and locating
- ✓ drainage
- ✓ hot water
- ✓ excavations
- ✓ roof plumbing

michael@smickplumbing.com.au lic no. 246475C



Hills Family Funerals

A tradition of care and concern

'Let our family help you through'

'We understand the importance of family
and it shows in everything that we do,
a tradition of care and concern'

- 24 Hour Care
- Funeral Planning
- Prepaid Funerals
- Australian Owned & Family Operated

For Personal Attention please call
Richard Spiteri on 02 9659 0900
(340 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill)



Richard Spiteri (General Manager)



Grand Motors Sydney

Grand Motors Sydney offers a wide range of certified used vehicles to suit any budget.

We offer trade-ins, finance, and insurance, getting you on the road sooner. Contact Ravi Virwani, your local parishioner on 0421 876 584.

Visit us online or at 29 Brumby Street, Seven Hills.
www.grandmotorsydney.com.au

0416 336 894
info@pressurepro.sydnet
sydneypressurepro
Sydney Pressure Pro

PRESSURE PRO
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

- ✓ Driveways & Retaining Walls
- ✓ Timber Decking & Patios
- ✓ All Outdoor Hard Surfaces
- ✓ Environmentally Friendly
- ✓ Prompt and Reliable
- ✓ Beat Any Verified Quote

LOOKING TO GET FINANCE FOR ANYTHING WITH WHEELS



We cater to most cases - Let's chat, give me a ring

Cherry Reyes
Drive Finance Solutions
creyes@drivefinance.com.au

Mobile: 0416 092 728

CODE: CRD