

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

Context determines meaning—an ever useful maxim. The Lectionary gives today's parable, generally misnamed "The Rich Man and Lazarus", no more context than its being addressed to Pharisees. Isolated from its context, and as concerns about heaven and hell gained attention, this parable has often been taken to be particularly interested in describing the topography of the underworld or afterlife. It shares many features with other ancient texts with the same setting (and later literature, e.g., Dante's *Inferno*), but topographical details are always secondary and subservient to the qualities of the persons involved. We would also do well to remember that as Jesus travelled around he may have used some parables more than once and in differing contexts, and that not all versions could be preserved in the relatively short gospels. Today's parable appears to have two possible contexts and uses. The first arose in last Sunday's reading, with Jesus teaching the disciples to make friends using unrighteous mammon "and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity" (16:9). The more immediate cue picks that up, but this is omitted from the Sunday Lectionary: "The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and laughed at him" (16:14). This first context concerns the use of one's goods in the service of others who may never be able to return the kindness on earth. The immediate cue (16:14) was probably omitted because the four intervening verses seem disconnected, as most easily noted in the final one, where Jesus says, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery..." (16:18), but all four deal with the Pharisees' relationship with the Law. It is evident from later rabbinic texts that the Law was envisaged allegorically as the daughter of God given in marriage as the spotless bride to Israel at Sinai. Luke appears to be an early witness to this tradition, with Jesus sharply accusing the Pharisees of being adulterers for having divorced themselves from the Law to marry something else, something of their own devising. This is the second context of the parable, one of a dispute as to who the true heirs of Abraham are and who the true spouse of the Law is.

Turning attention to the content of the parable, note first that its unique use of names is not trivial. The first name, Lazarus, was later confused with Lazarus of Bethany, brother of Martha and Mary, since John (12:1-7) has Jesus at supper there with Lazarus, with Martha serving, and is anointed by Mary, while Mark (14:3-9) and Matthew (26:6-13) report an anointing at a supper in the house of "Lazarus the leper" in Bethany, which Luke sets it in an unnamed town in the home of a Pharisee named Simon (read on Sunday 11C). This attempt at identifying the parable's Lazarus with an historical character ignores the fictitious nature of parables. However, the name Lazarus is a later form of that found in Genesis 15:2, Eliezer, who though technically a gentile is Abraham's chosen heir for want of a son. Later Jewish folklore continues to tell stories of Abraham and Eliezer. If this is the original intent, it points to the parable's being used to suggest that gentiles may lay claim to being the true heirs of Abraham's promise rather than those who are his descendants in the flesh, as was the parable's rich man who persistently addressed Abraham as "Father". This fits well with the pro-gentile trajectory of Luke's writings.

The major focus in the parable is the conversation between Abraham and the rich man, sometimes called Dives, "rich man" in Latin. Abraham is the first in Scripture to be called rich (Genesis 13:2), so this parable contrasts two rich men. The differences between them are exposed in the first part of the parable, which compares with the story of the hospitality of Abraham (read on Sunday 16C): Abraham runs to welcome the visitors, but this rich man ignores the beggar at his gate; Abraham provides water for them to wash, but this rich man leaves it to the dogs to wash Lazarus; Abraham offers a bit of bread yet feasts his guests, but this rich man does not even give the fallings from his table. This rich man fails in any way to be like Abraham; not using his considerable wealth for the good of others, not even from what was surplus to his needs, he forfeits any claim to being Abraham's heir.

Our Parish Mission

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

Mass Times

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

Masses of Devotion

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

Exposition + Benediction

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

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

Sun 12pm Baptism *by appointment*

Prayers

Tue 7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers (*Church Tabernacle*)
Fri 6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group (*office*)
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

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading

Amos 6:1, 4-7

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**

He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

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 16:19-31

During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

"In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

"The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham, "let them listen to them." "Ah, no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.



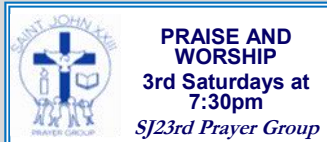
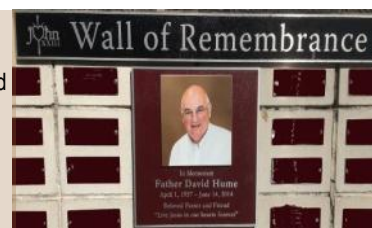
COLUMBARIUM

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



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



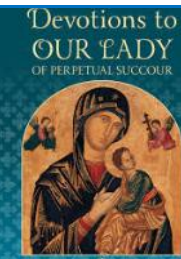
Office for Safeguarding Parramatta Way is to:

◆ 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

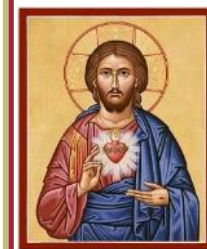
HOLY HOUR

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, inner light,
you shine on the happy
days as on the troubled
times of our lives. And
when the light seems to
grow dim, your presence
remains.

Diocesan News



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

11 October - Back to Basics Serving at the Altar Workshop:

Back by popular demand! We have decided to repeat
the 'Back to Basics' Seminar for Acolytes and
Ministers of the Altar (Senior Servers) who missed the
last sessions and those who would like to attend again.
This seminar will occur on Saturday 11 October from
9:30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre,
Blacktown. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Contact the Office for Worship team for more
info: ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795. RSVP by 7
October via <https://parracatholic.org/events/serving-at-the-altar-workshop/>.

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.

ship Team OFW@parracatholic.org or 0488 000 211.

Volunteers needed at Catholic Care Emerton!

Catholic Care is looking for volunteers to help at their
Walk-In Centre in Emerton on Tuesdays to
Thursdays. Volunteers would assist welcoming people
into the drop-in centre, greeting clients for counselling
appointments, assisting the local Aunties' yarnning and
art gatherings, reception of the OzHarvest food
delivery and overall assistance with Catholic Care
projects and programs. For more information, please
contact Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500.

Volunteers needed at Catholic Care's Mamre Creche

Are you great with young kids? Catholic Care is
looking for friendly, caring volunteers to support staff
during crèche sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
from 10am to 2pm at Mamre House, Orchard Hills. If
you enjoy spending time with young children (aged 0-
5) and have a few hours to spare, we'd love to hear
from you. Volunteers will need to obtain a Working
with Children Check and Police Check.

To help make a difference in the lives of local families,
call Catholic Care on (02) 8843 2500.

Grab your FREE copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

Also available online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

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

St John XXIII
Catholic Church

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

September Calendar

Mon	29	<i>Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael (F)</i> 8:30am - Mass 7:00pm - Mass
Tues	30	<i>Saint Jerome (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary & novena prayer Our Lady of Perpetual Help

October

Wed	1	<i>Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	2	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Fri	3	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm—Novena Mass to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sat	4	<i>Saints Francis of Assisi (M)</i> 9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	5	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 12:00pm—Baptism 6:00pm - Mass

St John XXIII
Catholic Church

FEAST OF 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

MORE INFO: 02 8883 5981
HTTP://JOHN23RD.COM HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOHN23RDPARISH WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/SJ23STANHOPE

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
- Vinnies
- Cake Angels

Organizers:

- Fr Jolly and Liturgy team
- St. John XXIII Prayer Group
- SRE

Organizers:

- Risen Lord 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

Pastoral Ministries

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mahatma Gandhi
We are in need of 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

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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

Cynthia Gomes, Merita Fernando

Remembrances:

Emelita Perez

Anniversary:

Estrella Alvarez, Zenaida Amio

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

Thanksgiving

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



Cake Angel's Kitchen

Product details: Buttery Rusks
(AKA Filipino Iloilo Biscocho)
Weight: 260 grams per bag
Price \$5
Quantity available: 10 bags for \$50



If each individual can gather up orders for 10 bags to be shared amongst friends and family, we will have the opportunity to donate \$50 (or 100% of sales) towards the church hall project. We can also deliver upon request.

Contact: Send a text to 0423 777 430 (Madeline)

If you would like to assist in this endeavour please contact the Cake Angels
Proceeds from the **Cake Angels' Kitchen** will go towards the Hall/Office Project

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*

PURPOSE OF THE MASS

Church documents describe the Mass as having many purposes, some of which we have described below.

The Mass is a time when Jesus is present with us

'Christ is always present in the Church, especially in its Liturgical Celebrations.' (CSL no.7)

During the Mass, Jesus is present in the form of the Word, the bread and wine when it is changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, by the action of the Holy Spirit; through the Priest and through us, the community, which has gathered together.

The Mass is a time when we pray through words, actions and gestures

'We take part by acclamations, responses, songs, actions and gestures.' (CSL 30)

When we celebrate the Mass we participate through the words, actions and gestures.

The Mass is a time to listen and respond to God's Word

'In the reading, God's word is laid before the people and the treasures of the Bible opened to them.' (GIRM 33-34)

During the Liturgy of the Word, we listen to the Word of God in the readings and the Gospel and then respond in prayer to each.

The Mass as a community of believers gathered together

'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' (Mt 18:20)

The Mass is an opportunity for us to join together as a community of believers and pray and celebrate together.

The Mass is a memorial celebration

'The Eucharist is a 'memorial of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection.' (CCC 1330)

Jesus instructed his apostles to 'Do this in memory of me' at the Last Supper, and so we memorialise Jesus' Death and Resurrection at every Eucharistic celebration. The words and actions of the Last Supper are repeated during every Mass at the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Mass is a thanksgiving celebration

'The Eucharist is an action of thanksgiving.' (CCC 1328)

The word Eucharist means thanksgiving. When we celebrate the Mass we are participating in a thanksgiving celebration. We give thanks for all that had been given to us by God, particularly the gift that is Jesus.

The Mass is a time when we share and celebrate our faith in Jesus

'We gather at Mass that we may hear and express our faith.' (Music in Catholic Worship no.1)

In addition to being an opportunity to celebrate and express our faith in Jesus, the Mass is a time when our faith in Jesus is shared and has the opportunity to grow and develop. Through listening to the Word and the Priest's homily, we are able to draw closer in our faith in Jesus and develop a greater understanding of the life of Jesus.

The Mass is a time to share and to be nourished by God's gifts

'Take; this is my body... this is my blood of the covenant.' (Mk 14:22-25)

The Mass is a shared celebration where our faith is nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, just as it is nourished through listening to the Word.

The Mass challenges us to go out and live as Jesus would

'We are sent forth to live the Gospel in our daily lives.' (Directory for Mass with Children no.54)

At the end of Mass we are called to go out into the world and take our beliefs in Jesus and our knowledge of His life out into our own lives and to live a truly Christian life.

<https://www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/explore/purpose-of-the-mass/>

Why we do what we do at mass

The Catholic liturgy includes many different gestures, postures, and symbols. As a Catholic, you are likely familiar with these practices, which include sitting, standing, and kneeling during Mass. But these gestures all have specific meanings and are designed to help us pray with all of our being: not only mind and soul, but body as well. To better understand the meaning behind these physical movements, we need to keep in mind two important aspects of the Catholic Mass — that the priest acts in the person of Christ, and that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.

Standing and speaking in the place of Jesus, the celebrating priest leads us with the gestures, traditions, and rituals that are part of the Order of the Mass, and we respond to these with our own actions and words. In this way, the Mass is much like a conversation and shared meal with Christ Himself.

Secondly, Jesus is fully present in the consecrated Eucharist, in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. This is the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation, which states that the bread and wine literally become Jesus during the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass.

So, why do we assume each specific posture and make different gestures during the Mass, and what do they signify?

Why We Sit During the Mass

After the Introductory Rite at each Mass, we sit for the Liturgy of the Word. As we listen to the readings from the lectionary, sitting indicates our willingness to be students at the feet of Jesus. We also sit down for the Homily, as we pay close attention and take in what is being preached. We are seated again while the Eucharistic elements are being prepared: a gesture of anticipation, as we prepare ourselves for and eagerly await the climax of the Mass in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Why We Stand During the Mass

At the very beginning of the Mass, we stand for the Introductory Rite, which includes the Penitential Act. Here we acclaim the Kyrie Eleison, meaning "Lord, have mercy" in Greek. The Kyrie is an ancient Christian prayer in which we confess our sins to both our Almighty Father and our fellow Christians. Standing during the Penitential Act shows that we are owning up to our sinfulness and openly asking for the Lord's mercy.

Standing is also a simple but profound way of honoring and respecting Jesus during the Mass, both in the person of the priest and in the scriptures, especially the Gospel. While we sit for the first and second readings, we stand for the Gospel reading. The Gospel is the pinnacle of the Word of God and to hear it proclaimed aloud is a great honor, which is why we rise from our seats and proclaim "Alleluia" as it is opened. Just before the reading of the Gospel, we make a small sign of the cross with our thumb over our foreheads, lips, and hearts. This simple act is a symbolic request for God to impress His Word upon our minds, lips, and hearts. When the priest or deacon has finished reading the Gospel, he shows respect to the Word of God by kissing the Gospel. After the homily, we stand back up to pray the Nicene Creed as a Profession of Faith, once again standing firm in our ownership of our faith.

Why We Kneel During the Mass

Kneeling is the most humble posture of worship during the Mass. When we kneel, we completely surrender ourselves to our Heavenly Father. We kneel during several parts of the Mass. After the Holy, Holy, Holy, we spend almost the rest of the Mass on our knees — an incredible act of faith and devotion by which we acknowledge that Jesus is personally present among us.

As we kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest's many gestures are also precise and meaningful. He makes the Sign of the Cross over the bread and wine and proclaims Christ's own words: "This is my Body," and "This is my Blood". As the bread and wine are consecrated, the priest kneels several times in front of the Blessed Sacrament to express reverence. Before or while receiving the Eucharist, it is traditional to kneel, bow, or genuflect to express your humility before God.

The Mass is rich with meaning — every element and gesture represents something profound and beautiful. When we understand them and take them to heart, each moment we spend at Mass will become more transformative and nourishing to our souls.

<https://www.catholicsteward.com/why-we-do-what-we-do-at-mass-a-look-at-the-postures-and-gestures-during-the-central-act-of-catholic-worship-sms/>

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

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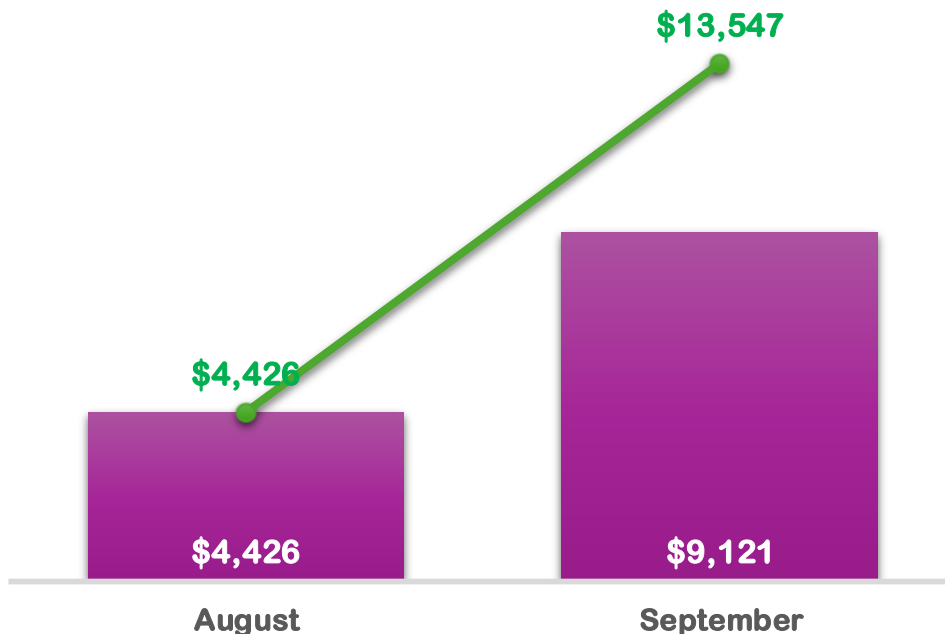
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