



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

Some in today's gospel (Luke 21:5-19) sound as if they were seeing Jerusalem's impressive temple for the first time. This was the second temple, having been built on the return of the Israelites from captivity in Babylon a little over five hundred years earlier, but like any other building of such age it had undergone various works. The latest and greatest expansion was that undertaken by Herod the Great, though we tend to remember him from his role in Matthew's account of our Lord's birth. In 63 BC the Roman general Pompey helped establish the Herodian dynasty when he intervened in Judea's civil war, in which the Pharisees and Sadducees were on opposing sides. After besieging Jerusalem, Pompey respected the temple and encouraged the continuance of normal worship. In 6 BC, so shortly before our Lord's birth, Judea formally became a Roman province and it would be about seventy years, equal to the length of the Babylonian exile, before the revolt broke out that led to the destruction of the temple. Thus the public ministry of Jesus unfolded in the middle of a significant period; he and his disciples were indeed in the middle of something, as we always are, but at that point it is always hard to comprehend what is actually occurring until it is over. Scripture scholars believe that passages like today's reading have been somewhat reshaped by later knowledge since they were written soon after that temple was destroyed. At the same time, the disciples in Jerusalem and Judea faced the difficulty of being considered traitors for having refused to participate in the revolt; they already had come to understand, or were at least moving towards understanding, that the risen Jesus was the new temple. Their commitment to peace also prevented them joining the revolution.

Other movements in Judaism were disdainful of the temple or its priests. Even from the building of the new temple after the Babylonian exile (where the synagogue movement also emerged) some were dubious about its legitimacy, and others later rejected it outright as a hive of corruption. Even among those

who accepted it there had always been a struggle to keep its worship pure. In the last of the prophetic Scriptures, from which we read today (Malachi 3:19-20), its unknown author (the appellation derived from its opening simply translates "My messenger") criticised the corrupt practices in this same temple right back in its earliest years, for although they returned with a renewed commitment to the Law the Judeans faltered in its ritual practices. Thus the history of the temple is an account of human frailty.

Early Christian writers are similarly witnesses to human waywardness among Christians right back at the beginning, as we read in today's second reading (2 Thessalonians 3:7-12). And any student of European history should be aware of other periods of ecclesiastical corruption, just as we are all painfully aware of more recent abuses among clergy. Recollection of our own history of faltering has taught modern Catholic preachers (but sometimes I fear not all) to be more circumspect in their references to ancient Jewish waywardness and to abandon the formerly frequent anti-Jewish interpretations of Scripture. We are always in the middle of some muddle and do not always recognise the presence of God's grace in it until much later. That is the good news, that God is there, gracefully working in its midst in ways we do not at first understand, writing straight with crooked lines, as it is said. Though the world be turned upside down with not one stone left standing upon another, though we come to the grief of a cross, there we await the dawning of the sun of righteousness. But the fear-mongering of some political figures who too easily point the finger of blame at certain others groups is counter to the graceful work of God, which takes on the pain of the suffering. Refuse to join them.

#### Our Parish Mission

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

#### Mass Times

<b>Mon</b>	8:30am
<b>Tues-Fri</b>	9:15am
<b>Sat</b>	9:00am, 6pm Vigil
<b>Sun</b>	7:30am 9am 10:30am 6pm
<b>Holy Cross Primary School</b>	
<b>Wed</b>	9:15am during school days
<b>2nd Sat</b>	7:30pm Indonesian Mass

#### Masses of Devotion

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

#### Exposition + Benediction

<b>1st Fri</b>	after 9.15am, 7.30pm
<b>Wed</b>	8:00pm Holy Hour

#### Reconciliation

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

#### Sacraments

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

<b>Tue</b>	7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers ( <i>Church Tabernacle</i> )
<b>Thurs</b>	7:00pm Lectio Divina ( <i>church</i> )
<b>Fri</b>	6:30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group ( <i>office</i> ) Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039

#### Special Blessings

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

#### Homebound?

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

#### COELIACS

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

Join & be part of our community.  
Welcome pack at the church foyer or 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)

#### NEXT SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER WE CELEBRATE

THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR AND THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING. TO HONOUR CHRIST OUR KING. WE HAVE A EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION AFTER THE 10.30AM MASS.

PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH COMMUNITY FOR THE MASS AND PROCESSION AND PLEASE INVITE ALSO YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.



**Rooster Masses**  
6:30 AM 16 Dec 2025 - 23 Dec 2025 Church

**Christmas Masses**  
24 Dec 2025 - Christmas Eve  
6:00 PM Family Mass with Nativity School Hub  
9:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass Church  
12:00 AM Midnight Mass Church  
25 Dec 2025 - Christmas Day  
9:00 AM Christmas Day Mass Church  
10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass Church

**New Year's Masses**  
31 Dec 2025 - New Year's Eve  
8:00 PM Holy Hour Church  
9:00 PM New Year's Eve Mass Church  
1 Jan 2026 - New Year's Day  
9:15 AM New Year's Mass Church

#### OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

##### Ambrose Early Learning

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

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

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

##### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Attila Lendvai

☎ (02) 8664 7100

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

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

### Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

### First Reading

Malachi 3:19-20

*The sun of righteousness will shine on you.*

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

**R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

Let the sea and all within it, thunder; the world, and all its peoples. Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord. **R.**

For the Lord comes, he comes to rule the earth. He will rule the world with justice and the people with fairness. **R.**

### Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

*Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.*

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you; not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and

**Thanks be to God**

### Bishop's Christmas Appeal - 22/23rd November

Bishop's Christmas Appeal – supporting Catholic Care Grief and Loss Counselling. Christmas is drawing near, and with it the promise that God is with us. For many in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, that promise is needed right now. Many individuals and families are carrying grief, stress and uncertainty - wrestling with the rising cost-of-living, unstable work and the heartbreak of losing a loved one. Your generosity is the way to open the doors of hope for the broken-hearted ensuring that no one in our community grieves alone. Please give generously at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal).

### Gospel Acclamation

Luke 21:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia!

### Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

*Your endurance will win you your life.*

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### Communion Antiphon

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.



*Your endurance will win you your lives.*



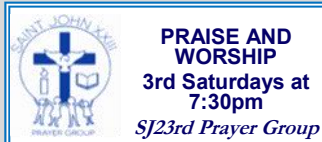
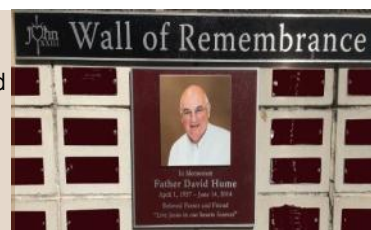
### COLUMBARIUM

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





## CONTACTS

### PARISH OFFICE

#### Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

#### Office Contacts

☎ (02) 8883 5981

(AH Emergency)

☎ 0434 033 326

160 Perfection Avenue,  
Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768

### MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,  
NSW 2768

### CLERGY

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Jolly Chacko

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

☎ 0417 541 637 (emergency only)

#### Assistant Priest:

Fr Bartholomew Chukwu

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

### STAFF

#### Secretary: Tanya Gatt

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

#### Finance: Renuka Soosaipillai

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

#### Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

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

### OTHER CONTACTS

#### Parish Council:

John McCabe

✉ [johnmccabe5@gmail.com](mailto:johnmccabe5@gmail.com)

#### Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

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

#### Columbarium queries:

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

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

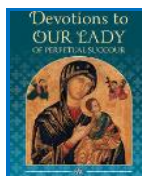


Office for Safeguarding  
Parramatta Way is to:

- ◆ 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  
Rosary | Novena  
mass  
First Tuesdays  
7:30pm

Rosary statue roster contacts  
Techie Sarlabus  
[techie.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:techie.sarlabus@gmail.com) or  
Melva Paguinto  
[emcipi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emcipi85@yahoo.com.au)

Rosary Statue Family Roster					
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	Ring M	Barnouti	Tanganan	
Feb	3	10	17	24	
	Erasmo	Available	Jacob	Ruggiero	

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

### HOLY HOUR

Eucharistic  
Adoration  
Wednesdays 8:00PM

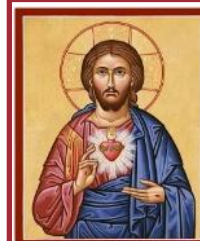


### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

7.00pm on Thursday night  
in the Church

Lectio Divina

Moderator - Jeff Hood



Novena Mass  
Our Sacred  
Heart of Jesus  
First Fridays  
7:30PM with  
exposition and  
adoration  
Sacrament.

## 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.



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.

## November Calendar

Mon	17	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (M) 8:30am - Mass
Tues	18	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary   Novena Prayer Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	19	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	20	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm—Lectio Divina
Fri	21	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (M) 9:15am - Mass
Sat	22	Saint Cecilia (M) 9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	23	Christ the King (S) 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

## Diocesan News



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

### 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' yarning 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.

Grab your **FREE** copy of the Catholic Outlook Magazine!

Also available online via [catholicoutlook.org/magazine](https://catholicoutlook.org/magazine)

### 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.

## 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

*TapnGo machines available by the entrances.*



## HALL PROJECT

### Prayer

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

## Let's Build our future together

Dear Parishioners,

### Our Parish Extension Project Is Underway!

This year continues to be a time of great blessings for our parish and our homes. We are nearing the tender process for our long-awaited Parish Extension Project!

With our parish community growing and our ministries flourishing, this project will provide much-needed space to support parish our mission. The development includes the construction of a new parish office and a multipurpose hall, which will not only expand our church's capacity when required but also serve as a welcoming centre for fellowship, meetings, youth gatherings, family and faith formation programs, and community outreach. The new hall will comfortably accommodate up to 180 people.

The total project cost is approximately \$4.2 million. Through your generosity and careful financial stewardship, our parish has \$3.1 million in savings. We have received Bishop Vincent's blessing and approval with completion anticipated by October 2026.

We are inviting everyone to join us in bringing this vision to fruition. **Our goal is to raise \$1 million**, and with your generous support, we can make this dream a reality. 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. Every contribution, every prayer, and every act of cooperation helps us build not only new facilities but also a stronger, more connected parish family rooted in faith and service.

Ideally, if 350 parishioners or families are able to contribute \$3,000 each, we will reach our goal. Of course, every gift matters — no matter the amount. What's most important is that each offering comes from the heart and reflects the joy of giving.

Together, let us continue building the future of our parish — one that reflects our shared faith, unity and hope.

God bless

Fr Jolly

### Ways to donate

#### Bank transfer

**Account name:** Blessed John XXIII Parish

BSB : 067 950 A/C : 00000313

Reference: BD (your name)

#### BPOINT

For credit card donation visit

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIPGSG>

or scan the QR code



## CONTRIBUTION UPDATE

### Total contributions to date





CHURCH AND HALL EXTENSION - MAIN ENTRY



HALL EXTENSION - SOUTH ENTRY

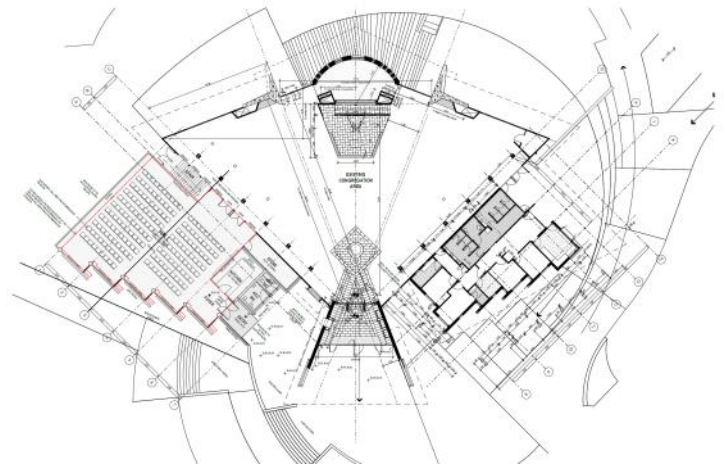
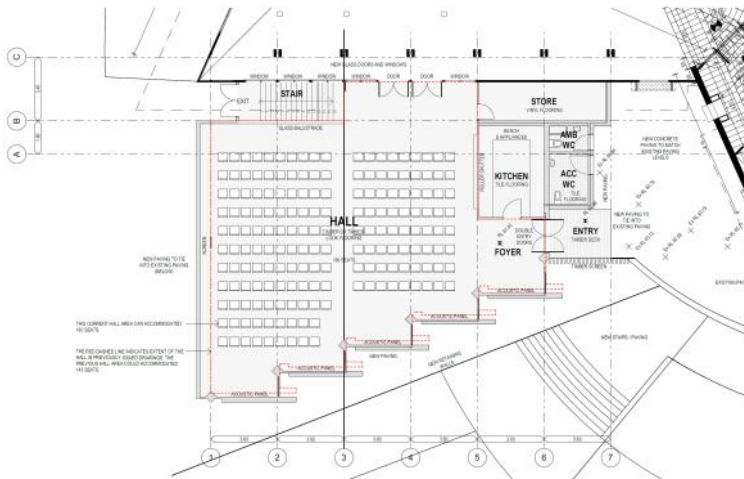


CHURCH AND HALL EXTENSION - WESTERN FACADE

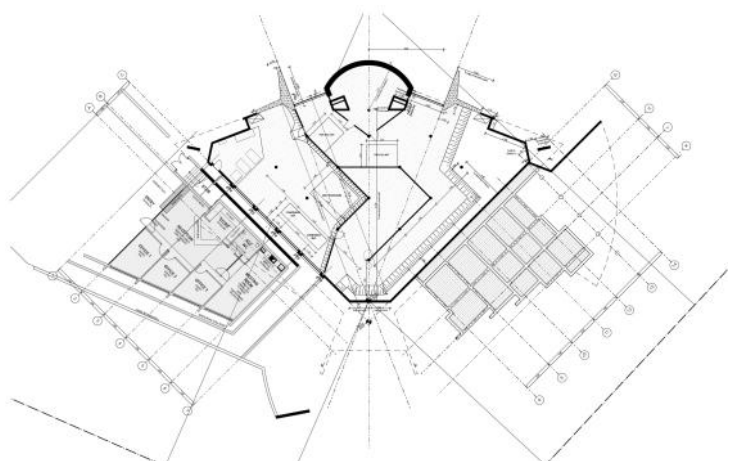
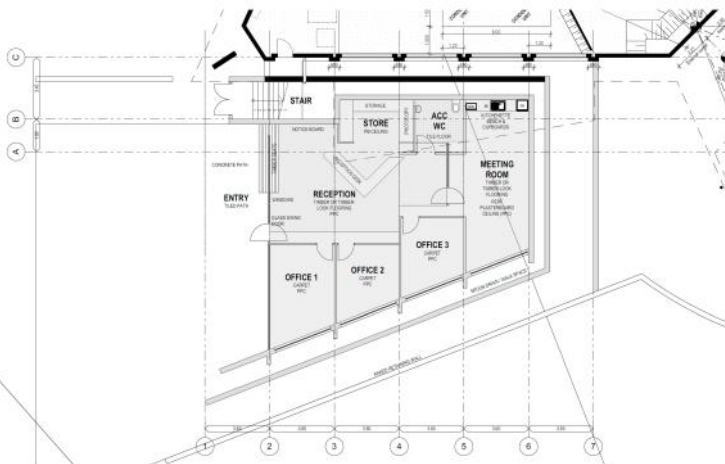


HALL EXTENSION - OFFICE NORTH ENTRY

# Hall Floor Plan



# Office Floor Plan





## Community Events



Building our Community  
**TOGETHER**  
Please contact either  
Nanette - 0404 465600  
Techie - 0438 201436

As a vibrant community of St John XXIII Parish, we warmly invite our various cultural groups and ministries to take part in our parish life by hosting a Saturday Vigil or Sunday morning mini-event after our Mass celebrations. These gatherings are a wonderful way to share your culture, connect with others and strengthen our sense of family and belonging within the parish.

We encourage everyone to come along, participate and support these community-led activities.

We also welcome suggestions for future events, fundraising ideas, or any offers of help — your creativity and support are always appreciated and play an important part in making our parish life joyful and thriving!



## Vinnies

### Fundraiser Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Rouse Hill

You are warmly invited to the Vinnies Stanhope Gardens Conference Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser at Bunnings Rouse Hill for a good cause. Come along for a snag or two and help us raise funds to support the vital work of Vinnies in our local community. Your support will make a real difference.

**Date:** Saturday, 22 November 2025

**Time:** 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Location:** Bunnings Rouse Hill -

Corner Windsor Rd & Annangrove Rd.

All proceeds go directly to the Vinnies Stanhope Gardens Conference to help those doing it tough. Bring your friends, family, neighbours!

Thanks for your support - see you at Bunnings!

## 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*

Daphne Noronha, Joy Sullivan

### Remembrances:

Alfredo Cruz, Regalado Morales

### Anniversary:

Emelita Mazo Perez

### Sick: Names published with permission.

*Lord Jesus, heal me. Heal me of 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, John Tipton, Valeria Laureta, Bev Osborn, Lucas Colleta, Florentina Elisura, Peter McArdle Emma Matoza, Cathie Christie, Melissa Nava, Imelda Vinluan, Cindy Dativas, Rosanna John Pellissery, DrBronwyn Andrews Dudley Francis, Marilyn Nalapo, Jude Newnes, Carlo Bueno, Emma Q. Fernando, Bev Lewis, Lenka Olivier Talija, Helen West, Victor Pons, Perla Magculang, Natasha Leita, Troy James, Charlie Busuttill, Zoey Illic, Margaret Harrison, Ryan Dixon, Elizabeth Candame, Zena Samar, Virginia Santos, Peter Dawson, Dexter Aguas, Jakov & Marija Franich, Obet Dionisio, Alvin, Maria Romeo, Ksenija Bosnic, Lino Matteazi, Jerwin McCarron, Babies with Blister disease Elsie Knapp, Elizabeth Langley, Louise Smith, Myrna Manalili, Rosie Carbonel, Fausto Bayot, Hilary Regan, Mary Phillips, Joshua McCarroll, Lily Camilleri, Manuel Sarris, Isagani Ocampo Christina Properzi, Raymond Lanzona, Jonathan Gemin, Barbara Thompson, Gerald Simbulan, Carrie Conolly, Brendan Prideaux,

### Thanksgiving

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

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Blaze's BBQ fundraiser last weekend! The event was an amazing success, and it was wonderful to see so many people come together in a shared sense of community while also celebrating Fr Bartholomew's birthday. We're excited to announce that we raised just under \$700! A fantastic result that wouldn't have been possible without your generosity and enthusiasm. Whether you helped cook, served food, made a donation, or simply showed up to enjoy catching up, your support made all the difference. Events like this remind us how powerful community spirit can be, and we're so grateful for everyone who contributed their time, effort and kindness.

Blaze Leadership Team



## 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](mailto: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

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## Understanding the Church Calendar

*What are the differences between a solemnity, a feast and a memorial?*

Except for such widely known celebrations as Easter, Christmas and Pentecost, most lay Catholics lump all Church celebrations under the term feast or feast days.

While the terminology is not necessarily incorrect, feasts are only one of the three categories of such celebrations in the Church year; the other two are solemnities and memorials. But what's the difference? The Church has always provided the faithful people of God with externally expressed devotions, festivals and celebrations through which they may pay homage to the Creator. These holy activities are not merely random events, but follow a seasonal, regulated schedule established by the Church's liturgical calendar. The day-to-day events of the annual Church year are primarily catalogued as a solemnity, a feast or a memorial.

In the fourth century, Emperor Constantine ended the Roman persecution of all religious factions and claimed Christianity to be the state religion of the Roman Empire. As the Church and Christian faith expanded, the number of religious celebrations subsequently increased. Unfortunately, for centuries there was no centralized control over the observance of the many celebrations. Every diocese had its own calendar, therefore rituals differed, celebrations honoring the mysteries of sacred Scriptures competed with honoring a saint, feast days overlapped, and almost every Sunday liturgy was pre-empted by a special occasion. This all led to confusion and abuses that continued until the reforms of the Council of Trent (1545-1563) and the eventual development of a universal calendar.

A churchwide calendar prompted the need to effectively organize the numerous holidays in a manner applicable to every diocese. A most challenging aspect of this effort was the standardization of the rituals used during the different ceremonies and, further, the sorting out and assigning of common dates or time frames to each event. A well-organized liturgical calendar did not happen overnight, but has evolved over the past 450 years. While the methods of categorizing the various festivals have varied, the Church has been consistent in her effort to arrange the events according to importance. The birth of Jesus is considered more important than the birth of John the Baptist; the birth of the Baptist more important than the dedication of St. John Lateran church; the life of the Blessed Mother outranks that of St. Francis of Assisi; and so on. The hierarchal process used as recently as the 20th century rank, or order, Church celebrations by calling them doubles of the first class, doubles of the second class, greater doubles, lesser doubles, simples and commemorations. In 1962, they were called first class, second class, third class and commemorations. The Second Vatican Council simplified the classifications to solemnities, feasts and memorials.

### Solemnities

A solemnity holds the highest rank among Church celebrations and there are 24 days so marked on the annual liturgical calendar. It is a day that recalls and glorifies an important event in the life of Jesus and the most significant mysteries of the Catholic Christian faith: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter (the Easter Octaves including Divine Mercy Sunday), Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart, Christ the King. So, too, honored as a solemnity are the days associated with the Blessed Mother: the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption, the Annunciation and Mary, Mother of God. Some saints are acknowledged with a solemnity: St. Joseph, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Sts. Peter and Paul and All Saints Day.

In addition to every Sunday, the Catholic Church prescribes holy days of obligation, which include certain solemnities. In the United States there are six holy days of obligation: Mary, Mother of God, the Ascension, the Assumption, All Saints, the Immaculate Conception and Christmas. While all holy days of obligation are solemnities, not all solemnities are holy days of obligation. For example, the celebration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a solemnity but not a holy day of obligation. The same is true of the solemnity of St. Joseph and the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Some solemnities are always celebrated on the same calendar date and are known as "fixed" on the liturgical calendar — for example, Dec. 25 is always the date of Christmas, Nov. 1 is the date of All Saints and the Immaculate Conception is always on Dec. 8. Other solemnities are "moveable" — that is, their dates change or move based on the date of

Easter. Pentecost is 50 days after Easter, Holy Trinity is the first Sunday after Pentecost, Corpus Christi is the second Sunday after Pentecost, the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the first Friday after Corpus Christi and so on.

So, just what distinguishes a solemnity? The celebration begins with evening prayers on the day before and some, if a holy day of obligation, have a vigil Mass. If the solemnity falls on a weekday, the daily Mass looks much like a Sunday liturgy, including three readings, the Gloria and the Creed. All the prayers of the Mass reflect on the event or person being celebrated. These added liturgical elements help to embellish the special attention given the event or person.

### Feasts

Celebrations identified on the Church calendar as a feast typically honor a special saint, such as one of the apostles. Other saints assigned a specific feast day include Sts. Simon and Jude, St. Stephen, the Holy Angels. Important events in Christian history are likewise identified as feasts: the Baptism of the Lord, the Conversion of St. Paul, the Transfiguration, the Visitation, the Presentation of the Lord, the Holy Family, the Birth of Mary, the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, the Holy Innocents, the Triumph of the Holy Cross, and the Chair of Peter. A feast that falls on a weekday is not preceded with a vigil Mass, the Creed is not obligatory and most feasts are fixed dates on the calendar.

### Memorials

The third category of celebrations and those most representative of what we call "feast days" are properly known as memorials. Memorials are identified as either obligatory, those that must be celebrated universally on an assigned day, or optional, meaning it is up to the celebrant as to whether that particular saint is celebrated. All memorials are fixed on the annual calendar. Memorials most often honor and focus us on the pious life of a saint. If Scripture mentions the particular saint, then the Mass readings on that day are taken from the applicable Scripture, such as, on the obligatory memorial of St. Martha the readings are from John (chapter 11) or Luke (chapter 10). If the saint is not mentioned in Scripture, then the readings are the ordinary, or normal, readings assigned for that day.

Optional memorials often identify a saint special or familiar to a particular location or religious order, but are often those not necessarily well known throughout the worldwide Church. For example, Sept. 19 is the optional memorial to St. Januarius, the patron saint of Naples, Italy. While the people of Naples and the surrounding area may well remember and acknowledge Januarius, a parish in another part of the world may not. The local parish priest normally decides about recognizing optional memorials.

As every country honors her founding fathers, her national heroes, independence day, and other national events, so does the Church celebrate the great sacred mysteries — the life of Jesus, the Blessed Mother, the saints and the martyrs who died for the faith. The Church classifies each celebration according to its importance and ranks them on the annual liturgical calendar as a solemnity, a feast or a memorial.

*D.D. Emmons writes from Mount Joy, Pa.*

### Ferial Days

If we look carefully at the Church liturgical calendar, there are some days that have no celebration assigned; no solemnity, no feast, no memorial. Such days are known as a "ferial" days, from a Latin word meaning free. In ancient Rome the term referred to a holiday, especially for slaves.

On the liturgical calendar, a ferial day is always on a weekday, Monday through Friday, and occurs during Ordinary Time. On that day the priest has the option of celebrating the previous Sunday Mass, a votive Mass or a Mass acknowledging any saint he desires. The celebrant may select the readings or use those appointed in the Lectionary for that day.

### Sunday

The documents of the Second Vatican Council reflect on the importance of Sunday: "The Lord's Day is the original feast day... Other celebrations, unless they be truly of greatest importance shall not take precedence over the Sunday which is the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, No. 106).

<https://www.simplycatholic.com/understanding-the-church-calendar/>



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