



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.

**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.

**Gospel Reflection**

'Abram went as the Lord told him.' Abraham is the central figure from chapters 12 to 25 of Genesis and this one sentence, at the start of chapter 12 after God calls him, sums up everything we need to know about him: he did what God asked of him. Just as he was called to follow, God calls each of us. In our initiation we answer that call.

But where does that call take us? At the end of the fourth block of narrative material in Matthew's Gospel, we find the story of the transfiguration of Jesus. It is a moment of divine revelation about Jesus' identity—just as, at his baptism, the heavenly voice confirms Jesus as the beloved Son. To this is added the instruction that disciples are to listen to him.

Here they are up a high mountain alone, away from everyone and everything. It is easy to find God in the peace and quiet, it is easy to appreciate God surrounded by a majestic mountain-top view. St Augustine of Hippo, in one of his homilies in the fifth century, focused on this reaction from Peter:

Saint Peter was delighted with the solitude; he had grown tired of the turbulent, troublesome human race. He saw the mountain, he saw the Lord, he saw Moses and Elijah ... He was delighted with this quiet, leisurely, blissful life, and said to the Lord: 'Lord, it is good for us to be here.' Why go down the mountain to be subjected to all that turbulence? Why not rather decide to enjoy ourselves here? It is good for us to be here. (Sermo 79A.)

The story of the transfiguration of Jesus is one rich in symbolism. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the summary of the Jewish faith. As Augustine said in that same homily: 'In Moses we have the law, in Elijah the prophets. When we put forward anything from the gospel, we back it up from the law and prophets'. The transfiguration shows us a moment of glory, it shows us our destination. Like any kid in the back of a car, our question during this season of Lent is 'are we there yet?' The answer is that, although we can experience a part of that glory, although we get a taste of it every time we share in the eucharist, we are not there yet.

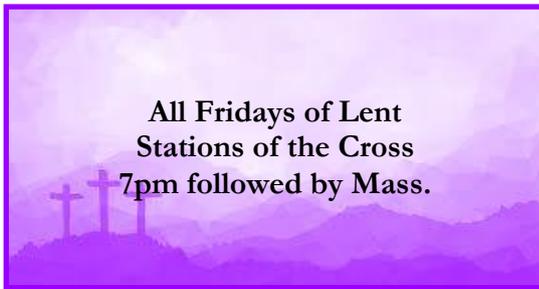
In Matthew's account of the transfiguration, what we find before this story is the first prediction of the suffering and resurrection of Jesus (Matt 16:21-23), and the doctrine of the cross (Matt 16:24-28): 'If a man wishes to come after me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and begin to follow in my footsteps'. Shortly after the transfiguration story we have the second prediction of the passion (Matt 17:22-23). The structure of the story is not accidental: the only way to glory is through the cross.

The author of the second letter to Timothy captures this reality: 'bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy'. Abraham's call led him to hardship, but he trusted in that call, even in dark and difficult days. Yes, Jesus has abolished death; yes, Jesus has proclaimed life and immortality; yes, the Lord will rescue our souls from death. However, the only way to life is through death. In the unintentionally profound words of the 1970s' musical, Jesus Christ Superstar, 'to conquer death you only have to die'.

Lent is our season of death. We must die to sin. We die to selfishness every time we tell the truth; we die to selfishness every time we forgive someone who hurts us; we die to selfishness every time we refuse to join in and spread gossip about someone; we die to selfishness every time we say a kind word to a stranger; we die to selfishness every time we offer a helping hand to anyone in need; we die to selfishness every time we reach out in love. Lent is our season of dying to sin so that we can rise to the new life of Easter.

We are thankful today for the faithfulness of Abraham, who went as the Lord told him. We are thankful today for Moses and Elijah pointing the way to Jesus. We are thankful today for Jesus, who showed us the way to life through overcoming sin and death. We are thankful today for our sisters and brothers who die to sin by listening and trusting in the faithfulness of God's Word.

*Geoffrey D Dunn*



**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)*
- Thurs** 7:00pm Lectio Divina *(church)*
- 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

**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)

**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 available at the church foyer or from the website or scan the QR Code



**TapnGo machines available by the entrances.**

**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.*



**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/>

### Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

### First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

### Second Reading

Romans 5:12, 17-19

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

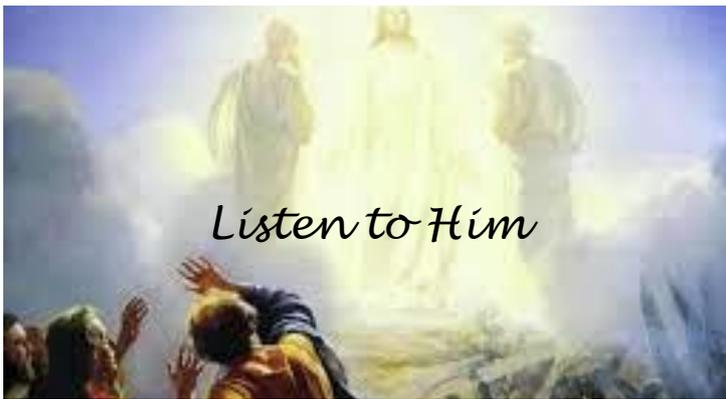
Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



### Special Intentions

*Names published with permission*

*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*

#### Born to eternal life

Aurora Estoque Montaos, Carla Villarante, Ernesto Aaron, Aurora Aaron, Nina Mangion

#### Remembrances:

#### Death Anniversary

Apolinario Maglaya, Bibiano Villanueva, Feina Maglaya

#### Sick

*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, John Tipton, Valeria Laureta, Bev Osborn, Lucas Colleta, Dr Bronwyn Andrews Dudley Francis, Marilyn Nalapo, Christina Properzi, Raymond Lanzona, Elizabeth Langley, Gerald Simbulan, Brendan Prideaux, Marcelino Matteazi, Carlo Bueno, Helen West, Victor Pons, Ksenija Bosnic, Zena Samar, Charlie Busuttill, Elsie Knapp, Perla Magculang, Fausto Bayot, Isagani Ocampo, Myrna Manalili, Lenka Olivier Talija, Florentina Elisura, Cathie Christie, Rosanna John Pellissery, Peter McArdle, Jerwin McCarron, Emma Matoza, Margaret Harrison, Elizabeth Candame, Joshua McCarrroll, Melissa Nava, Imelda Vinluan, Cindy Dadivas, Louise Smith, Lily Camilleri, Hilary Regan, Mary Phillips, Jude Newnes, Manuel Sarris, Rosie Carbonel, Maria Romeo, Zoey Illic, Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly, Jonathan Gemin, Babies with Blister disease, Bev Lewis, Renado Naldo, Ryan Dixon, Noah, Natasha Leitao, Troy James, Nicollo Benesa, Mr Thomas, Carlo Dominic, Barbara Thompson

#### Thanksgiving

Felina Maglaya, Apolinario Maglaya, Angelo Pasco, Tricia Batongbacal, Norma Lorenzo

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

### Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

### Communion Antiphon

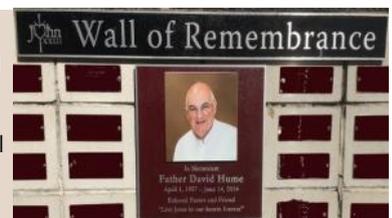
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

### COLUMBARIUM

If you are considering purchasing a niche, we still have spaces available. These are open to parishioners, families, friends and our neighbouring parishes. For more 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

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

Mei Velasco

Julian Martin

Suni Fernando

Helen Festejo

Ajith Lobo

Rebecca Reynolds



## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

### Ambrose Early Learning

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

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

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

### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Attila Lendvai

☎ (02) 8664 7100

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

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

### St John XXIII Catholic College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

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)

## Praying together

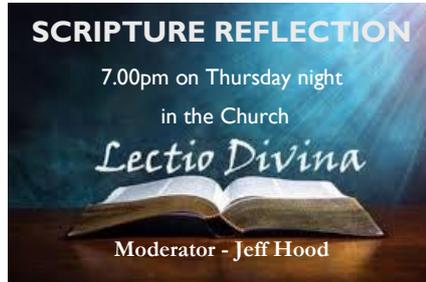
*When we pray together, our faith is strengthened and our community is drawn closer. Join us to deepen your faith and open your heart to the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

### Rosary Statue Family Roster

	3	10	17	24	31
Mar	<b>Paguinto</b>	Hala	Available	Available	Available
Apr	Available	Sebastian	Available	Available	
May	Available	Sebastian	Available	Available	
Jun	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available

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

Rosary statue contacts Techie Sarlabus [techie.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:techie.sarlabus@gmail.com) or Melva Paguinto [mcpi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mcpi85@yahoo.com.au)



## 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.

### ⇒ CLEANERS AND GARDENERS

As we give our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful volunteers who faithfully keep our church clean, our gardens green, and our surroundings welcoming, we also invite others to join this valued ministry. A few more helping hands would make a great difference in caring for our shared spiritual home.



If you are able to assist, please contact Tanya at the parish office.

### ⇒ CAKE ANGELS

If anyone is interested to be involved and take leadership of this fun loving dynamic group please contact Tanya at the parish office or Techie at 0438 201436.

## A Friendly Reminder to Our Parish Community

We kindly ask all parishioners to help care for our church by cleaning up after themselves after masses

Small actions-such as returning items to their place and disposing of rubbish properly. Help keep our church clean, welcoming, and ready for everyone.

Thank you for your care and consideration in looking after our shared spiritual home.

## March Calendar

Mon	2	8:30am - Mass
Tues	3	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Prayer 7:30pm - Novena Mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	4	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	5	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Lectio Divina (Scripture reflection)
Fri	6	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Station of the Cross 7:30pm - Novena Mass <i>Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>
Sat	7	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	8	7.30am, 9:00am, 10:30am Mass 6:00pm - Mass



### Young at Hearts Seniors Group

Contact either of the following:

Frank Coleiro - 0459 504625

Trevor Coutinho - 0407 150399



## Vinnies

join the good works

Message Rose Franco 0401 387427

## YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT GROUPS

### BLAZE YOUTH 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)

DM @blazeyouthsj23 on Insta | FB

Contact Ellena - 0478 685 191



### BLAZE TERM 1

6th & 20th March

### IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS 18 - 35 years of age

**WHEN:** First Sundays each month 7:00 - 9:30pm

**WHERE:** St John XXIII Staffroom

For any queries please either email

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

### 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 Limguangco 0478 629629 International

## Diocesan News



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

# Parish Hall/Office Project Plan

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*TapGo 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**

### Church building project - Ways to donate

- ★ Dedicated "Tap & go" machines
- ★ Bank transfer  
**Account name** - Glenwood Stanhope Gardens St John 23rd Parish  
**BSB** - 067 950 **A/C** - 100002469  
**Reference** - BD (your name)

- ★ BPOINT – For credit card donation visit

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

- ★ scan QRCode

Thank you for your support!



We are fast approaching the stage of inviting tenders for our building project.

As of now, we have identified five to six potential builders. Two have been recommended based on previous projects with schools and other parishes, two have been suggested by the Diocesan Property Office, and another two have been recommended by the architects.

We are currently in the process of gathering their capability statements. Together with Tracy from the Diocesan Property Office, and Nicolas, the architects, we will then prepare the necessary documentation to formally invite them to submit their tenders. From there, we will proceed with the selection process. The Education Office in Parramatta is also assisting us.

I just wanted to keep you informed of our progress. And as we move closer into the final phase and begin the actual construction, let us continue to support this important project through our prayers and generous financial contributions.





Trust the sale of your home with your local Parishioner and award-winning licensed real estate agent, **John Irudayaraj**.

A member of your church who believes in the power of giving back, mention this advert and if John sells your home he will make a donation directly to the Church.

**0433 969 731**  
[johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au](mailto:johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au)  
 McGrath Northwest

**McGrath**



LG1/25 Regent Honeyeater Grove, North Kellyville NSW 2155  
 ☎ 02 9629 4444    🌐 [www.climbingladders.com.au](http://www.climbingladders.com.au)



# UPCOMING Community EVENTS



Building our  
Community

As a vibrant community of St John XXIII Parish, we 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 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!

**Please contact either**  
Nanette - 0404 465600  
Techie - 0438 201436

## YAHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11 <sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday, after the 9:15am Mass	Psychology and spirituality of getting older, from the wisdom and insights by Jeff Hood RSVP 9 <sup>th</sup> March
<p>The Young At Heart would like to invite all parishioners to a very informative presentation by <b>Jeff Hood</b>, the seminarian in our parish on <b>Wednesday the 11th of March</b>, after the morning mass and a brief coffee time. Jeff will be sharing his thoughts on the psychology and spirituality of ageing as well as insights into his own story and experiences. <b>Booking is essential, please contact Frank on 0459504625 or Trevor on 0407150399</b></p> 	
22 <sup>nd</sup> April, Wednesday	Picnic in the Park, TBC
15 <sup>th</sup> May, Friday, 11:30am	Mother's Day lunch - The Fiddler RSVP 8 <sup>th</sup> May
10 <sup>th</sup> July, Friday, after morning mass	Morning tea
<p><b>For all inquiries/confirmation/RSVPs please call or text Frank 0459 504 625 or Trevor 0407 150 399</b></p>	



## INTERNATIONAL EUCHARIST CONGRESS

Our Holy Father Pope Leo has confirmed his visit to Australia for the International Eucharistic Congress that will take place in Sydney, 2028. As we prepare for this great event, it is a time for us to develop a deeper understanding and love of the Eucharist.

1st March is officially the start of preparations for the **International Eucharist Congress**.

Every parish in Australia is having an hour of Adoration of the Holy Eucharist. A time to praise and worship the Lord.

We invite you to join us for a solemn Hour of Adoration this **Sunday, 1st March**, from **5:00 to 6:00pm**, followed by Holy Mass. This special time of prayer marks the beginning of our Parish's spiritual preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress. We encourage every parishioner to take part in this meaningful gathering as one united worshipping community. We have also the **Holy Hour** in our parish **every Wednesday from 8 to 9pm** and encourage you to join.



## THE FILIPINO CHAPLAINCY DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

# FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

Saturday, 14 March 2026  
St Patrick's Church  
Mary Queen of the Family Parish  
51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown 2148  
Solemn High Mass @ 10:30 am  
Followed by Lunch & Entertainment

**Theme:**  
"St Joseph: Guardian of the Holy  
Family, United in the Mission of  
Christ"

NOVENA MASSES

04 March 2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	MARY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC CHURCH 125 Barrier Drive, Quakers Hill 2763
05 March 2026	Thursday	7:00 PM	ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens 2768
06 March 2026	Friday	7:00 PM	ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 10 Gardenia Grove, Lalor Park 2147
07 March 2026	Saturday	7:00 PM	ST PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hill 2163
08 March 2026	Sunday	7:00 PM	ST PADRE PIO CHURCH 34-38 William Howell Drive, Glenmore Park 2745
09 March 2026	Monday	7:00 PM	ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH 326 High Street, Penrith 2750
10 March 2026	Tuesday	7:00 PM	ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH 9 Adelaide Sreet., Rooty Hill 2766
11 March 2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	ST ANDREW'S CHURCH 36-40 Breakfast Road, Marayong 2148
12 March 2026	Thursday	7:00 PM	ST PATRICK'S CHURCH 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown 2148

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT  
WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 6.30PM  
in the SJXXIII church.

This is for children who have received FIRST  
RECONCILIATION and are in YEAR 4 OR  
ABOVE.

## What the Transfiguration Teaches Us About Jesus: 3 Important Truths

The Greek word translated “transfigured” gives us the English word “metamorphosis,” which means a change on the outside that comes from the inside. When Jesus began to shine, it was not because the angels in heaven had turned a powerful spotlight on him. It was because his divine nature was radiating through his body and his raiment. Jesus revealed his divine nature in its glory.

The remarkable “transfiguration retreat” reported by Matthew, Mark, and Luke (Matt 17:1–13; Mark 9:2–13; Luke 9:28–36) gave Jesus opportunity to glorify the Father and prepare himself and three of his disciples for his imminent suffering and death. Jesus was not alone on the mountain. Peter, James, and John accompanied him at his request, then Moses and Elijah appeared and the Father spoke from heaven.

It is our privilege to learn from the disciples’ experience on that mountain. As we’ll see, the transfiguration teaches us three essential truths about Jesus.

### 1. Jesus, the Son of God, shines with the glory of God

In the ancient Near East, the Gentile nations had temples, priests, and rituals, but only the nation of Israel had God’s glory dwelling in their sanctuary (Rom 9:4). When Moses dedicated the tabernacle, God’s glory moved in (Exod 40:34–38), and when Solomon dedicated the temple, the glory filled the house (2 Chron 7:1–3). The idols of the nations were without life or glory and could do nothing, but the living God of Israel is glorious in everything he is, says, and does!

The tragedy is that, over the centuries, the people of Israel repeatedly sinned against the Lord and even put idols in his temple. Eventually, the glory of God departed from the sanctuary. The Prophet Ezekiel records how the glory moved from the mercy seat in the holy of holies to above the threshold of the temple, then to the eastern gate, and from there it left the temple completely and went over the Mount of Olives (Ezek 10:1–19; 11:22–23). The priests could have written “Ichabod” over the temple, “the glory has departed” (1 Sam 4:19–22). Yet Ezekiel also revealed that the glory would return and dwell in the temple in the future kingdom (Ezek 43:1–5).

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God’s glory returned to the people of Israel in the person of the Son of God (Luke 2:8–9). “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory” (John 1:14). Jesus glorified God in his life, teachings, and miracles, and especially in his death and resurrection.

But on the mount of transfiguration, Jesus radiated his glory in a way his disciples had never seen before. This glory revealed that Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

*The transfiguration was a revelation of the glory of his coming kingdom when the cross would be replaced by the crown.*

Jesus was on his way to Calvary, and his transfiguration was a sign that the suffering he would endure would ultimately lead to glory. It was a revelation of the glory of his coming kingdom (Matt 16:27–28), when the cross would be replaced by the crown (Heb 2:9). After his resurrection, Jesus asked the two Emmaus disciples, “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory?” (Luke 24:26).

Too many believers think that suffering in the will of God is a strange thing, for, if we are obeying God, he ought to shelter us. When Peter first heard that the Master would die on a cross, his response was, “Far be it from you, Lord”; and Jesus rebuked him (Matt 16:21–23). Suffering is one of God’s tools for preparing us for glory, not only today but when Jesus returns (1 Pet 4:13).

Those who have trusted Jesus Christ already have his glory in the person of the Holy Spirit within them (John 17:22; 1 Pet 4:14), and that glory is revealed in the way we live and the works we do (Matt 5:16). It will be revealed when we reach our heavenly home, see Jesus, and rejoice in his presence. Meanwhile, we walk by faith, knowing that the Lord always keeps his promises. Charles Spurgeon said that the promises of God shine the brightest in the furnace of affliction, and he was right. Suffering and glory go together as do God’s grace and our suffering. “The Lord will give grace and glory” (Ps 84:11).

### 2. Jesus achieves a greater exodus

Not only was the Master radiant with divine glory, but so were two men, Moses and Elijah, who suddenly appeared and conversed with Jesus about “his decease which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem” (Luke 9:31). Moses represented the law and Elijah the prophets, for in Jesus we see the fulfillment of the law and the prophets (Matt 5:17). “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17).

The word translated “decease” is the Greek word *exodus* (ἐξόδοσ), a suitable word for the topic of conversation Jesus was having with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:30–31). Moses supervised the exodus of Israel out of Egyptian slavery, and Elijah led the unfaithful nation out of pagan idolatry and back to the Lord (1 Kgs 18).

Jesus accomplished the most important exodus of all, for he delivers lost sinners from the power of darkness and takes them into his glorious kingdom (Col 1:13). In the days of Moses in Egypt, it was the blood of the lamb that protected the Jews from death and enabled them to go free, and it is the blood of God’s Lamb today that sets us free (John 1:29; Eph 1:7). Jesus became a prisoner that we might be set free.

Elijah did not close his ministry by dying but was carried alive into heaven, just as God’s people who are alive at Christ’s return will be caught up to glory after the dead are raised (2 Kgs 2:9–12; 1 Thess 4:13–18). One day, he will take his bride, the church, far above the mountaintops and into the glory of heaven. What a marvelous day that will be, and it will mean glory forever!

### 3. Jesus alone provides salvation

This is the second time Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him on a special ministry. The first occurred when he raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead (Luke 8:51–56), and the third would be when Jesus went into the garden to pray (Matt 26:37). It has been pointed out that each of these occasions was connected with death.

1. In the home of Jairus, Jesus showed himself as the conqueror of death.
2. On the mount of transfiguration, he was seen glorified in death.
3. In the garden, he surrendered to the Father’s will unto death.

The three disciples were “heavy with sleep” (Luke 9:32), a fault they repeated in the garden (Luke 22:45); but when Peter was fully awake, he realized that Moses and Elijah were leaving. His suggestion that he build booths for Jesus and his guests was evidence that his mind was still confused because he didn’t really know what he was saying. But while Peter was still speaking, the Father interrupted him by placing a cloud over them and speaking to them. Throughout his life, Peter was interrupted: here by the Father and later by the Son (Matt 17:24–27) and by the Spirit (Acts 10:44–48).

Moses and Elijah were sent to encourage Jesus and not to remain on earth. Jesus was on his way to the cross and nothing could deter him (Luke 9:51). Alas, Peter still didn’t understand the significance of the crucifixion (Matt 16:21–23)!

This is the second time on record that the Father spoke from heaven to encourage the Son. He spoke at the baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:17), before Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil; and the Father would speak again as Jesus drew near to his sacrifice on the cross (John 12:27–28). In each of these three instances, the Father encouraged Jesus as he approached suffering and death.

At Christ’s baptism, the Father had said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Here on the mount he repeats those words, but he adds, “Hear him!” One of the most dangerous things we can do as disciples of the Lord Jesus is to tell the Lord what to do instead of letting him tell us what to do. “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become his counselor?” (see Rom 11:34; Isa 40:13; Jer 23:18).

*There is no substitute for Jesus and no need to try to supplement Jesus with anyone or anything else.*

The heavenly visitors were gone and the three disciples saw “Jesus only.” But that’s all they needed to see! Moses and Elijah could do nothing for them—but Jesus could.

There is no substitute for Jesus and no need to try to supplement Jesus with anyone or anything else. It’s not Jesus plus Moses, because we are not saved by keeping the law (Gal 2:16–21). It’s not Jesus plus Elijah, for though he ministered to Israel, he cannot minister to us. It’s not Jesus plus anything, because our religious works do not save us but only give evidence that we are saved. There is no salvation without receiving Jesus by faith.

#### “Jesus only”

All of this teaches us to look to Jesus only—“listen to him!” (Luke 9:35, emphasis added).

“Jesus only” is not only the message of salvation, but of Christian living. Unless we make “Jesus only” the center of our lives, we can never enjoy the fullness of the Holy Spirit, for the Spirit was given to glorify Jesus (John 16:13–14). The Holy Spirit inspired people to write the Scriptures and to present Jesus Christ in what they wrote. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942–1944), said it so well: “Our message is Jesus Christ; we dare not give less and we cannot give more.”

“Jesus only” is what gives power to our evangelism. In our witnessing, we must use the Scriptures to present Christ and the cross, knowing that the gospel of Christ is “the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16).

“Jesus only” is essential for effective prayer. To pray in the name of Jesus is to ask what he would ask so that he might be glorified, not so that we might be pacified. I have lived long enough to be thankful for unanswered prayer. We must pray for God’s will to be done so that Jesus will be honored in all things (1 John 5:14–15), and the best way to determine God’s will is to search the Scriptures and be taught by the Holy Spirit. Prayer becomes an adventure in faith as we grow in our communion with Jesus only.

*This article is adapted from Warren W. Wiersbe, Milestones of the Master: Crucial Events in the Life of Jesus and Why They Matter So Much (Lexham Press, 2015).*

<https://www.logos.com/grow/transfiguration-jesus-three-truths/>

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