

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

Symbolically, blindness is darkness and sight is light. The author of the letter to the Christians in Ephesus tells us that we once lived in darkness but now we live in the light of the Lord. We all know the expression 'to see the light'. It refers to the sudden, complete understanding of something that is usually the complete opposite of what we believed before. Ultimately it derives from the stories about the encounter between Jesus and blind people: today's story from John's Gospel, the blind man from Bethsaida in Mark 8, and blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10 (with parallels in Luke 18 and Matthew 20).

He gives them sight, but they receive more than that. They are given insight, insight into who Jesus really is. Their physical disability is a metaphor for a spiritual truth. As blind people they stumble around, unable to find their way. When they see they gain freedom and wholeness. Of course, the reality is that many blind people are not that helpless and can learn to manage quite well. However, the metaphor remains: to be blind is to be aimless and lost.

So today we have Jesus say that he is the light of the world. He gives purpose and meaning and direction to our lives. He brings healing and wholeness to broken lives. This is why light is an important symbol in our Easter season and initiation liturgy. The paschal candle is the light shining in the darkness. At baptism we are each given a candle lighted from that paschal candle to represent the insight that we have gained: no longer do we walk with tiny steps and arms outstretched feeling our way, not sure where we are going. By becoming a follower we walk with bold steps in the right direction.

'Seeing is believing', goes the old expression, first recorded by John Clarke in 1639, but once again deriving from the Gospel of John, in particular from John 20:29, where Jesus comes to Thomas after the resurrection. Clarke, however, missed the point. It is all well and good for Thomas to believe in the risen Jesus because he saw him, but the rest of that verse goes on, 'blest are they who have not seen and have believed'. The stories of Jesus and the blind men tell us this as well. Even before they can see they believe what Jesus promises them. Jesus tells the man born blind to go, wash, and he trusts what Jesus says, and then he sees (see the connection between water and light, font and paschal candle!). He believes and then he sees; he does not see first and believe second.

Is it possible for us to see Jesus today, like the man born blind did and like Thomas did? The answer must be yes. We can see Jesus in those who are his disciples. Augustine of Hippo said as much when he preached on this gospel story:

Are we to think, brothers and sisters, that he was here then and is not here any longer? ... It is now that faith is working by love; and if we are working now, then this is the day; Christ is here. Hear his promise and do not think he is absent ... He himself has said, 'And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world' (Matt 28:28 [sic]). [Footnote: In Euangelium Iohannis Tractatus 44; my own translation.]

This then is our Christian mission. Just as in baptism our candle is lighted from the paschal candle, who is Jesus, so our light must be the light of Christ shining in the darkness of our world. Our task is to be Jesus for others. In our eucharist today we thank God for the gift of Jesus, who has washed us and given us sight and insight. We thank God for the light that gives us true meaning and direction. We thank God for this season of preparation for initiation and renewal. We thank God for all those people who have shared their light and faith with us. We say yes to the call to live in that light and to be that light for those whom we meet.

Geoffrey D Dunn

FOR YOUR URGENT ATTENTION

Lately, we have been noticing, some people coming to Church carrying coffee and other snacks and also, chewing gum. We ask you to do all the eating and drinking outside of the church or the church kitchen that is available. Coming to receive the body of Christ while chewing gum in your mouth is defiantly dishonoring the Body of Christ.

Please avoid such a behaviour and let us keep our church as a place of prayer.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Fr Jolly Chacko

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 <i>during school days</i>
2nd Sat	7:30pm Indonesian Mass

Masses of Devotion

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

Exposition + Benediction

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

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

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

Prayers

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

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



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/>

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.

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God



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

Isidro Benesa, Leonardo Tamayo, Steven Lawrence Salmon

Remembrances:

Death Anniversary

Magdalena Miranda, Guy Falzon, Emmanuel Francica, Zenaida Amio

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, Elizabeth Candame, Florentina Elisura, Cathie Christie, Rosanna John Pellissery, Peter McArdle, Melissa Nava, Imelda Vinluan, Cindy Dadvivas, Louise Smith, Lily Camilleri, Rosie Carbonel, Joshua McCarroll, Hilary Regan, Mary Phillips, Mr Thomas Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly, Jonathan Gemin, Babies with Blister disease, Jerwin McCarron, Emma Matoza, Margaret Harrison, Maria Romeo, Noah, Zoey Illic, Barbara Thompson, Jude Newnes, Ryan Dixon, Carlo Dominic, Manuel Sarris, Troy James, Natasha Leitao, Bev Lewis, Renado Naldo

Thanksgiving

Lili Mantoura Khoury

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

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

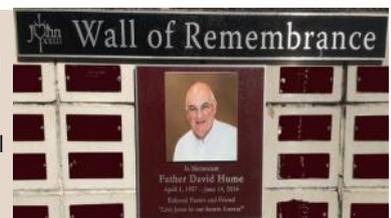
The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

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
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
☎ 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



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
www.celcstanhope.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
Principal: Frank Chiment
☎ (02) 9852 0500
✉ stjohn23stanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au

If any sick or elderly parishioners or their family members, would like a visit from the Vincentians, please contact the Parish Office or share the relevant contact details with us.
We would be happy to arrange a visit if it would be appreciated.

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	Paguinto	Hala	Ruggiero	Available	Available
Apr	Jacob	Sebastian	Ring	Shalini	
May	Ruggiero	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 or Melva Paguinto mcipi85@yahoo.com.au

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.

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.



March Calendar

Mon	16	8:30am - Mass
Tues	17	Saint Patrick's (S) 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary & Novena Prayer Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed	18	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	19	Saint Joseph (S) 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Lectio Divina (Scripture reflection)
Fri	20	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Station of the Cross 7:30pm - Mass
Sat	21	9.00am - Mass 3:00pm - Lenten Program 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	22	7.30am, 9:00am, 10:30am Mass 6:00pm - Mass



Young at Heart 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 or DM @blazeyouthsj23 on Insta | FB
Contact Ellena - 0478 685 191



BLAZE TERM 1 - 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 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 Limuangco 0478 629629 *International*

Diocesan News



Soul Food Podcast
LISTEN NOW



MET
Pastoral Formation



OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA



the well
DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

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

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/StJohnXXIIIPGSG>
 - ★ scan QRCode
- Thank you for your support!



Please consider transitioning from envelope giving to digital or cash giving

Currently 6% of the donations to our parish is received through envelope giving. We are planning to discontinue this option in the future. The reasonings behind this move are cost effectiveness, to reduce paper wastage and convenience. Switching from envelope to electronic/cash giving can significantly enhance convenience for both donors and to the parish staff. Whilst thanking you for your generous commitment in helping the parish finances, we request your kind consideration to switch from envelope giving to one of the following:

- **direct debit arrangements to your nominated bank account or credit card**
- **Regular bank transfers set up at your end to the parish bank account**
Account name - Glenwood Stanhope Gardens St John 23rd Parish
BSB - 067 950 A/C - 100002469
Reference: PG (your initial and family name)
- **Donating through cash or using the "Tap & go" machines**

Please contact the parish office to update us with your preferred giving option. Either by phoning 02 88835981 or emailing accounts@john23rd.org.au

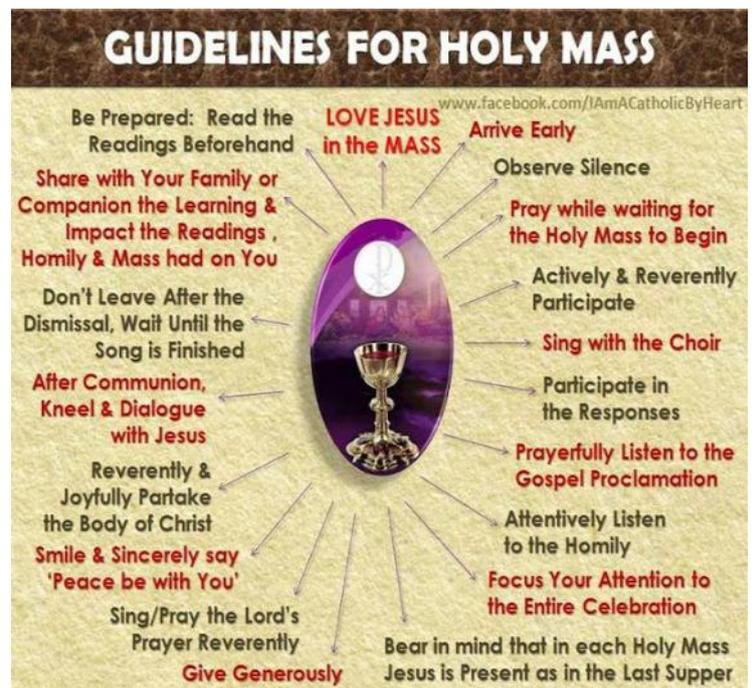
God Bless you,

Fr Jolly Chacko

Holy Mass Etiquette: Guide of 10 Things To Do And Not Do In Mass Hour Fast before Mass.

1. The law of the Church says that one should **fast for 1 hour before receiving Holy Communion**. Water and medicine can be consumed any time. This is to prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist.
2. **No Food and Drink in Church**. Water is used by the priest or choir and water for those who are ill. Exceptions are made for small children.
3. **Chewing gum in church is not appropriate**. Chewing gum breaks your fast, and is considered impolite in a formal setting
4. **Make the Sign of the Cross with Holy Water on entering and leaving the church**. This sign is a reminder of our Baptism, and thus members of Christ's Church. (Touch your forehead, heart, left shoulder and right shoulder while saying In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.)
5. **Dress modestly and suitably**. Wear your Sunday Best to Church. Sleeveless shirts, mini-skirts, extremely tight clothing, shorts, see-through clothes and low-cut blouses are not appropriate.
6. **Cell phones should never be used in Mass**. The exceptions are emergencies. If you need to, please walk out of church to do so. It is appropriate to use the phone for readings or prayers, but try to be discreet.
7. When entering and leaving Church, **genuflect toward the Tabernacle**. Christ is present in the Tabernacle. With the touch of our right knee to the floor, we adore our Lord and God in the Eucharist. If someone is physically unable to genuflect, then bow. During Mass, if you pass in front of the altar or tabernacle, bow reverently.
8. Please **be quiet in church**. Once you enter the sanctuary –try to be silent. If you must talk do so as quietly and briefly as possible. Remember that your conversation might be disturbing someone in prayer.
9. Bow before receiving Holy Communion. Show your respect with a bow of the head or genuflection. This is an traditional practice that has continued until this day.
10. **Do not leave early**. We should stay to the end of the procession and the hymn that accompanies it.

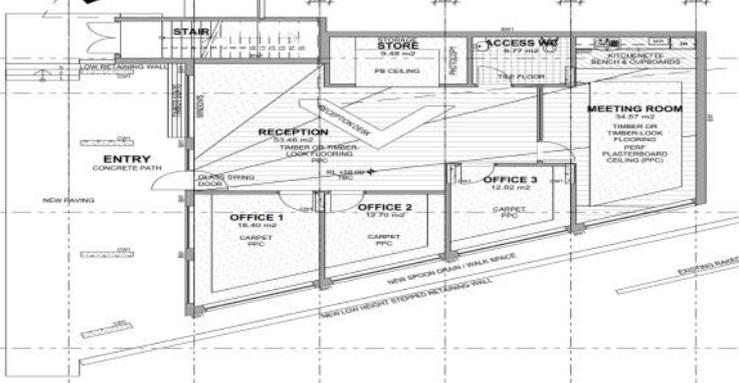
<https://www.catholicnewsworld.com/2025/01/catholic-holy-mass-etiquette-guide-of.html>



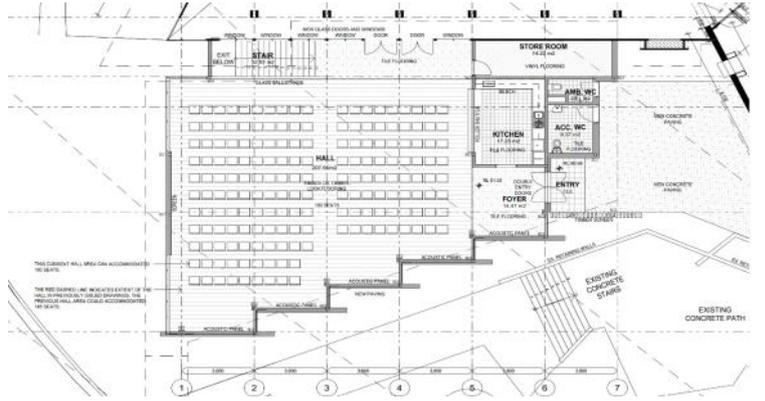
Parish Hall/Office Project Plan



Office Floor Plan



Hall Floor Plan



THANK YOU TO OUR DINNER DANCE SUPPORTERS



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
McGrath Northwest

McGrath



CLIMBING LADDERS
Early Learning & Montessori Centre

LG1/25 Regent Honeyeater Grove, North Kellyville NSW 2155

☎ 02 9629 4444

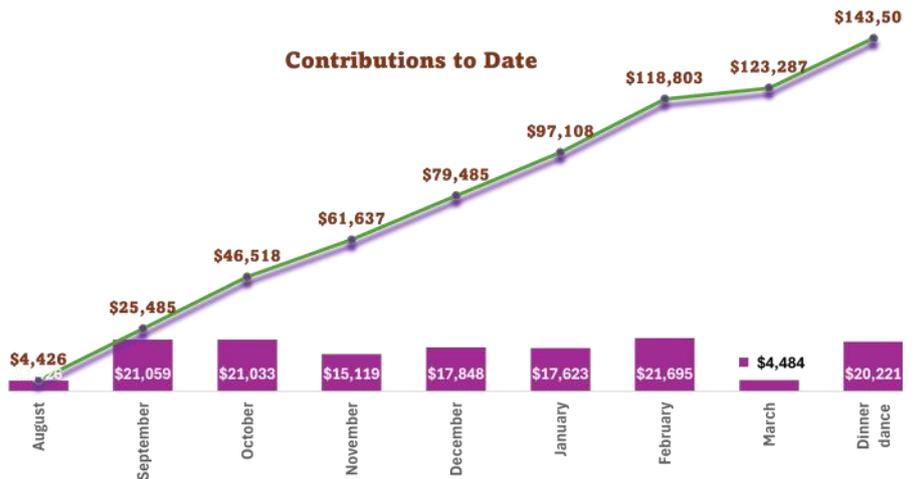
🌐 www.climbingladders.com.au



PH 0406 181 188

<http://triplekevents.com>

Contributions to Date



UPCOMING Community EVENTS

YAHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

22 nd April, Wednesday	Picnic in the Park, TBC
15 th May, Friday, 11:30am	Mother's Day lunch - The Fiddler RSVP 8 th May
10 th July, Friday, after morning mass	Morning tea
For all inquiries/confirmation/RSPVs please call or text Frank 0459 504 625 or Trevor 0407 150 399	



This year our Parish is blessed to have **3 catechumens** who are in their final weeks of preparation to be baptized in the Church and be Confirmed and receive Holy Eucharist.

Please pray for **Eric, Evangeline & Jessica**

In addition to the 3 catechumens above, we have

Luca, Trysha, Jo and Patrick

receiving the sacrament of confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Please pray for them each day in their final preparation in the faith journey and for their families.

Try Alpha?

EXPLORE FAITH WITH YOUR ST JOHN XXIII COMMUNITY.

Alpha is a series of sessions that allows people to connect, discover more about their faith and answer life's biggest questions. We invite you to join us as we go on this journey together.

KEY DETAILS

Interested? Register today.

Dates: 16 Apr to 25 Jun 2026
Time: Thursdays, 7.15pm to 9.15pm
Food: Dinner will be provided
Cost: Free



THERE'S A SEAT FOR YOU AT THE TABLE.



Building our
Community

Please contact either
 Nanette - 0404 465600
 Techie - 0438 201436

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!

NOTE THESE IMPORTANT DATES

LENTEN REFLECTION

Saturday, 21st March 3:00 to 5:00PM (Church)
 Further information to follow

RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, 24th March 7:00 to 9:00PM

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, 29th March

PASCHAL TRIDUUM SCHEDULE 2026

HOLY THURSDAY	2 nd April	7:30PM	The Lord's Supper	School Hub
		9:00PM till 12:00AM	Holy Hour	stay with the Lord at Church
GOOD FRIDAY	3 rd April	10:00AM	Stations of the Cross	School Grounds
		3:00PM	Passion of Christ	School Hub
HOLY SATURDAY	4 th April	7:00PM	Easter Vigil	Church
EASTER SUNDAY	5 th April	7:30AM	Masses	all masses at the Church
		9:00AM		
		10:30AM		
		11:30AM	Easter Egg Hunt	
		6:00PM	Mass	

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

“The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord begins with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, has its center in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) on the Sunday of the Resurrection.” (UNLY #18-19)

Triduum celebrations should be held “with a good attendance of the faithful, an appropriate number of ministers, and the means to sing at least of the parts. Consequently, it is desirable that small communities, associations, and special groups of various kinds join together in these churches to carry out the sacred celebrations in a more noble manner.” (RM)

HOLY THURSDAY

The Lord’s Supper

- † Holy water should be removed from all fonts immediately before this Mass. They are refilled with water blessed at the Easter Vigil. (Ordo, Letter from Congregation for Divine Worship Prot. N. 569/00/L)
- † The optional rite for the Reception of the Holy Oils blessed at the Chrism Mass may take place at another celebration prior to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, before Mass, “or at another time that seems more appropriate” (RM Chrism Mass #15 and <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/order-for-the-reception-of-the-holy-oils.cfm>)
- † Between the Gloria on Holy Thursday and the Gloria at the Easter Vigil, the organ or other musical instruments may be used only to sustain the singing (PS #50, RM). No instrumental music should be used during the Triduum liturgies or as prelude or postlude.
- † The Washing of Feet – The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments issued a decree on January 21, 2016 at the request of Pope Francis specifying that the Holy Thursday foot-washing can include “all members of the people of God”—a practice already observed by many. The decree directs pastors to “select a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women, and laity.” The priest washes the feet of each person and may be assisted by a deacon or servers. Sung music accompanies this ritual.
- † Gifts for the poor, especially those collected during Lent, may be presented in the procession with the offering of bread and wine. (PS #52)
- † The Hosts for the communion of the faithful should be consecrated within this celebration – not from the tabernacle. In addition, a sufficient amount of Sacred Hosts should be consecrated at this Mass for the liturgy of Good Friday. (PS #48, RM)
- † Transfer of the Holy Eucharist – Following the Prayer after Communion, the priest incenses the Blessed Sacrament in a ciborium on the altar. (No monstrance should be used.) He receives the humeral veil, takes the ciborium and covers it with the end of the veil. The Blessed Sacrament is then processed through the church to a place of reservation. The procession is led by a crossbearer and accompanied by candles. Next, the thurifer precedes the priest. Other ministers may follow. “Pange Lingua” or another suitable Eucharistic song is sung. (RM)
- † The altar is stripped after the celebration. Crosses are removed or veiled. (RM)

GOOD THURSDAY

Passion of the Lord

- † The priest is the presider for this liturgy. A deacon takes his role in assisting the priest.
- † At the Opening Prayer, “Let us pray” is not said. (RM)
- † Reading of the Passion of St. John: may be read by a single voice, in sections, or as a narrative with dialogue. Deacon(s) and lector(s) may assist. If a dialogue format is chosen, the priest, if possible, should read the part of Jesus. (RM)
- † A brief homily is given. (PS #66)
- † Solemn Intercessions – The intercessions as found in the Missal are to be used in their entirety. The deacon (or if no deacon, a lay minister) sings or speaks the intercessions. The assembly stands for each of the ten intercessions, then kneels for the period of silent prayer after each, standing again at the priest’s prayer after each intercession. Alternately, the assembly may kneel or stand throughout. The period of silence between the intention and the collect should be of sufficient duration. (RM)
- † Adoration of the Holy Cross – There are two options for the Showing of the Cross:
 - ⊗ A cross is veiled with a violet cloth. The deacon and candle bearers go to the sacristy to get the veiled cross and candles. They emerge with cross and lighted candles, process to the sanctuary where the priest receives the cross. The Priest uncovers the upper part of the cross and sings the invitation “Behold the wood of the cross...” This should be sung and can be assisted by a Deacon or cantor. All kneel and venerate the cross briefly. Then the priest uncovers the right side of the cross and repeats the sung invitation. This is repeated once more, uncovering all of the cross.
 - ⊗ The priest or deacon with candle-bearers goes to the church door to get the uncovered cross. The priest or deacon makes 3 stops during the procession – at the door of the church, at the midway point, and at the entrance to the sanctuary. At each stop, he sings the invitation while the assembly kneels and venerates silently.
- † For the veneration by the faithful, the cross is held by ministers, laid down, or placed in a stand at the entrance to the sanctuary. Candles are set next to the cross. The faithful approach the cross and make some sign of adoration. (RM)
- † Only one cross should be used for adoration. (PS #69)
- † Communion Rite – A cloth and corporal is placed on the altar. The Blessed Sacrament is brought to the altar from the place of reposi-tion by the deacon, or if there is no deacon, by the priest. He wears a humeral veil. He simply places the Blessed Sacrament on the altar and uncovers the ciborium. The priest genuflects, then invites all to pray the Lord’s Prayer. He gives the Invitation to Communion; distribution follows. (RM)

- † The Prayer after Communion, followed by the Prayer over the People, without the Trinitarian blessing, completes this liturgy. (RM)
- † All depart in silence. Ministers and all present genuflect toward the cross as they leave. (RM)

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil

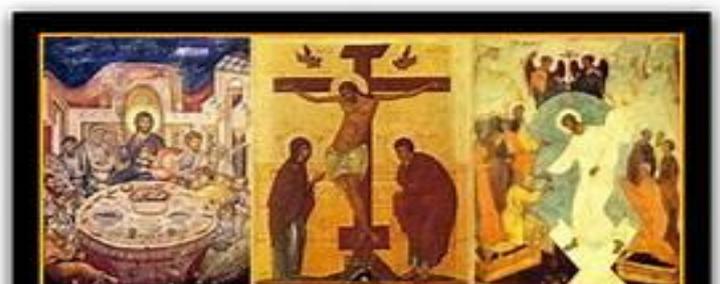
- † Lectionary #41 – It is preferable to do all nine readings. “Nevertheless, where more serious pastoral circumstances demand it, the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced ... At least three readings should be read from the Old Testament, both from the Law and from the Prophets, and their respective Responsorial Psalms should be sung. Never, moreover, should the reading of chapter 14 of Exodus with its canticle be omitted.” (RM)
- † The Easter Vigil must begin after nightfall (UNLY 18-21). Sunset on April 4, 2026 is 8:09 p.m. Eastern Time and civil twilight (onset of darkness) is 8:35 p.m. – schedule accordingly.
 - ⊗ “The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night; it should not begin before nightfall; it should end before daybreak on Sunday. This rule must be interpreted strictly. Therefore the contrary abuse and practice cropping up here and there of celebrating the Easter Vigil at the same hour as the usual anticipated Sunday Masses is condemned. The reasons advanced for anticipating the Easter Vigil, for example, lack of public safety, are not brought up when it comes to Christmas Eve or gatherings of various kinds.” (PS #77 and 78)
- † The Easter fire should be built outside if at all possible. (RM) Parishes are reminded to practice fire safety: obtain necessary permits from the Fire Marshall, have an extinguisher on hand, and designate a person to tend the fire after the procession moves inside. Inside the church, make sure fire detectors are in good working order, and know how to turn off a false alarm.
- † All baptized persons carry a candle in the procession. The Elect do not carry a candle in the procession, since they receive the Light of Christ during the Liturgy of Baptism.
- † After the procession into the church and before the Exsultet is sung, the church lights are turned on. (RM) Things to Prepare: -materials for outdoor fire -fire extinguisher -new Paschal candle -small candles for assembly -Holy Water bucket and aspergillum -towels and baptismal garments, if applicable -Sacred Chrism and Oil of Catechumenate, if applicable -incense (optional) 5
- † The Exsultet is, ideally, sung by a deacon. In the absence of a deacon, it may be sung by a priest or concelebrant. If a deacon cannot suitably sing the Exsultet, “because of necessity, a lay cantor sings the Proclamation.” (RM)

- † The assembly candles are extinguished at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word. (RM)
- † Outlines for the Easter Vigil showing which ritual books are used for each part can be found at www.archlou.org/worship.
- † The candles of the assembly are lit and they stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Profession of Faith, and the Sprinkling Rite.
- † The neophytes and newly received are the first in the assembly to receive Communion.
- † The deacon (or if no deacon, the priest) sings or says the double alleluia during the dismissal. This is done throughout the Octave of Easter, including the 2nd Sunday of Easter. It is not done again until Pentecost.

EASTER SUNDAY

The Resurrection of the Lord

- † The rite of the renewal of Baptismal promises used at the Easter Vigil may be used on Sunday in place of the Creed.
- † The first eight days of the Easter Season (Sunday to Sunday inclusive) make up the octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord. At Mass during the Octave, the Gloria is said or sung and a double alleluia is added to the dismissal and its response. (UNLY #24)
- † The Easter sequence, *Victimae paschali laudes*, is obligatory, following the second reading, at Mass on Easter Sunday. It is optional on other days of the octave of Easter.



The Paschal Triduum

If you would like to advertise your business please contact the parish office. This helps support our parish
 St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.

Climate

airconditioning

DESIGN // INSTALLATIONS // SERVICE // REPAIRS

0400 841 601



Francis Alphonse at Chrysalis Law Group provides a range of legal services.

Home visits for the elderly or infirm at no extra charge in selected areas.

Ph 8046 7666

Email francis@chrysalislegal.com.au



Sonic Shuttle
Airport Drop And Pickup

Our 24/7 Airport Drop and Pickup service ensures safe, practical, and comfortable transportation.

Our Phone
 041 009 4420 / 040 211 5623



'Let our family help you through'

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

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

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

 Richard Spiteri (General Manager)

Open 7 days  Open 7 days

MINCHINBURY Fruit Market

1039 Great Western Hwy, Minchinbury NSW 2770

Your Local Grocer Since 1960

Maltese Food

- Maltese Biscuits
- Three Hills Kunsewra
- Pastizzi & Ravioli
- Mayor Zalza & Sugo
- Zalzett
- Klinnie



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



Phone: 9625 8021

Email: admin@minchinburyfruitmarket.com.au



Risen Lord Community Praise & Worship Night

7.30pm
FRIDAYS,
St John 23rd
College Hall



Come join us for an evening of deep intimacy with the Lord. Learn about the abundant and victorious life that Jesus died and purchased for us to have.



Antony-John's Consulting

Christian Psychologist
 0426 950 060

info@antonyjohnconsulting.com



www.antonyjohnconsulting.com

1% COMMISSION
 Valid Until March 2026

To celebrate our first anniversary, we're offering 1% commission + GST.

Simply mention this ad!



0431 277 110
Julia Stella
 CEO | Principal

Stella & Co
 REAL ESTATE

LOOKING TO GET FINANCE FOR ANYTHING WITH WHEELS



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

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

Mobile: 0416 092 728

CODE: CRD





Retiring



Early Learning Centre



Aged Care

holyfamilyservices.com.au • Call us: 9678 8200

A Ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

QUAKERS HILL FAMILY PRACTICE

- Multi Doctor practice with Christian values at the core
 - In-house Allied health and Dental clinic
- Compliments from Quakers Hill Family Practice**

Books are now open for new patients

Tel - 02 9626 6300

www.qhfp.com.au

SMICK plumbing services

Michael Xiberras
 0412 914 332

Call Michael for all of your plumbing needs

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

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



Your local real estate agents

SELL | BUY | RENT

02 9631 1101  moverealty.au

Grand Motors Sydney



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

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

Visit us online or at 29 Brumby Street, Seven Hills.

www.grandmotorsydney.com.au



0416 336 894

info@pressurepro.sydney

[sydneypressurepro](https://www.instagram.com/sydneypressurepro)

[Sydney Pressure Pro](https://www.facebook.com/SydneyPressurePro)

PRESSURE PRO
 COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

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



Support our advertisers