

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

We have witnessed in the last few Sundays in Lent that being a Christian is all about being a new person. It is about the change from thirst to satisfaction (the woman at the well), it is about the change from darkness to light (the man born blind), and today it is about the change from death to life (the raising of Lazarus). Jesus is living water, Jesus is the light of the world, and Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

This passage from John's Gospel, particularly Jesus' statement that he is the resurrection and the life, is most familiar to us from the funeral liturgy. In the context of someone's death his words often bring comfort and hope. We apply these words to physical death, but they extend beyond that, to apply to spiritual death as well.

The prophet Ezekiel lived in the early years of the exile of the people of Judah in Babylonia, modern-day Iraq. The people of Judah were not refugees: they were prisoners of war, the captive slaves of the victorious enemy. Many of them probably would have preferred death to the living nightmare of what they were suffering. The last third of Ezekiel, from chapters 33 to 48, is a message of hope and salvation for people who cannot believe what had happened to them, for a people full of despair and in the depths of depression. One of Ezekiel's messages is about the valley of the dry bones. Ezekiel's vision is of the bones being covered in flesh and coming back to life. The words are addressed to the people in exile, so it is obvious that the prophet was not talking about physical death. God's promise is that the Spirit will reanimate them, give them fresh hope, and will restore them to their homeland. 'You will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil', the prophet promises. Interestingly, these words of Ezekiel are the words on the monument to Holocaust survivors at the Yad Vashem memorial in Jerusalem.

Paul tells the Christians in Rome that the Spirit has made a home in them. Just as it is the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead so it is the Spirit who gives life to our bodies. Paul was not talking about the afterlife, but the here and now. It is the same with the story of Lazarus. It is not only a story about what God offers us after we die, but what God is offering us today, while we live. Through initiation, through baptism and confirmation and eucharist, our God is offering us life for today, not just for when we die. If we want to rise again after death, we have to rise again while we are alive. We have to rise up out of the waters of baptism and live new lives.

Augustine of Hippo told his congregation this same message sixteen hundred years ago. It is not just physical death that should worry us but spiritual death, which is sin, that is our concern. Augustine said:

For everyone who sins dies. Yet everyone fears the death of the body, though few the death of the soul. Everyone takes care that the death of the body should not occur, bound though it is to come some day. This is why they are troubled. It is a source of trouble to prevent the being who will die from dying, yet no one troubles to prevent the one who will live forever from sinning ... If only we could persuade everyone, and ourselves with them, to be as much in love with the life that endures as we are with the life that is running away. (In Euangelium Iohannis Tractatus 49)

In our eucharist today we thank God for the gift of life. We thank God not simply for the eternal life we hope to enjoy after death, but for the eternal life we hope to enjoy while we live. We thank God, who is full of mercy and redemption, for us even when we sin. We thank God for the Spirit who gives us life. We thank God for the broken body and the spilt blood of the Lord, who gives us life. We thank God that the sin of death is transformed into the grace of life. As we thank God today we commit ourselves once again in these days of Lent to being those who believe in life by the way we live today.

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

PARISH RECONCILIATION EVENING
TUESDAY 24TH MARCH
6.30PM TO 8.00PM

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



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/>

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

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ear be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

John 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**I am the resurrection
and the life.**



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

Swineetha Fernando, Steven Lawrence Salmon

Remembrances:

Sylvaine Magda Fiot

Death Anniversary

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, Barbara Thompson, Maria Romeo, Renado Naldo, Jude Newnes, Natasha Leitao, Troy James, Carlo Dominic, Manuel Sarris, Bev Lewis, Ryan Dixon, Zoey Illic

Thanksgiving

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

Gospel

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus,

'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life, If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

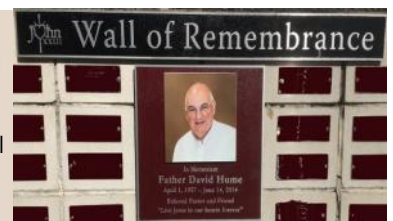


COLUMBARIUM

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
✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

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

St John XXIII Catholic College
160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
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	23	8:30am - Mass
Tues	24	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary & Novena Prayer Our Lady of Perpetual Help 7:00pm- Rite of Reconciliation
Wed	25	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord (S)</i> 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	26	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Lectio Divina (Scripture reflection)
Fri	27	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Station of the Cross 7:30pm - Mass
Sat	28	9.00am - Mass 3:00pm - Lenten Program 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	29	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 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 or DM @blazeyouthsj23 on Insta | FB
Contact Ellena - 0478 685 191

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 Limguangco 0478 629629 International

Diocesan News






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

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

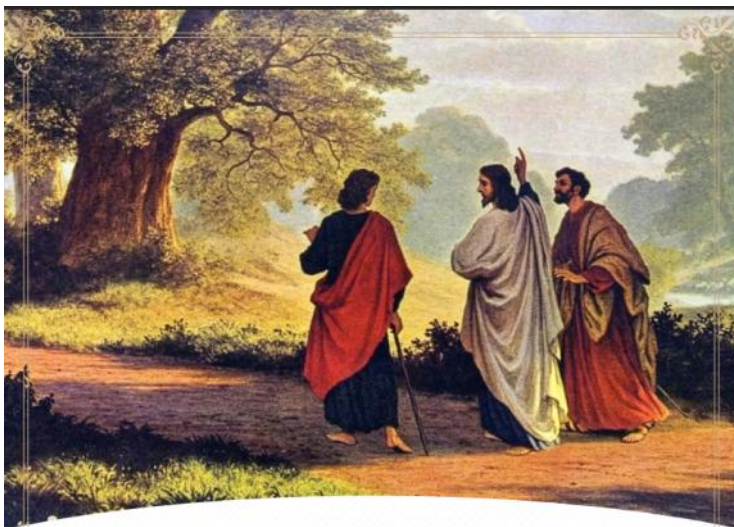
Currently 6% of the donations to our parish is received through envelope giving. We are planning to discontinue this option in the future. The reasonings behind this move are cost effectiveness, to reduce paper wastage and convenience. Switching from envelope to electronic/cash giving can significantly 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



DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

MOST REVEREND VINCENT LONG VAN NGUYEN OFM CONV,
 BISHOP OF PARRAMATTA
 CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

TO THE ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE OF

Mr. Jeffrey Joseph Hood

SUNDAY 26 APRIL AT 6:00 PM
 ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH
 160 PERFECTION AVE
 STANHOPE GARDENS NSW 2768

From the Young at Heart

A very informative talk was held on 11 March by our seminarian, Jeff Hood, soon to be ordained Deacon. The session took place in the church, which was well attended by our senior parishioners, with thanks to Fr Jolly for his kind approval.

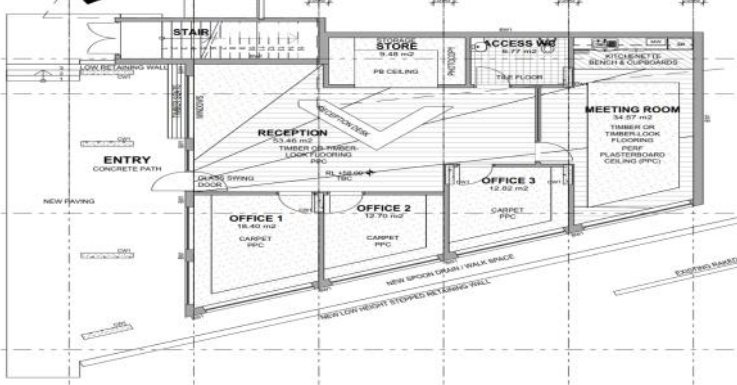
The YAH extends its sincere appreciation to Jeff for his well-presented and thought-provoking talk, which was greatly valued by all who attended. We wish him every success and continue to pray for God's graces and blessings upon him as he journeys forward in his chosen vocation.



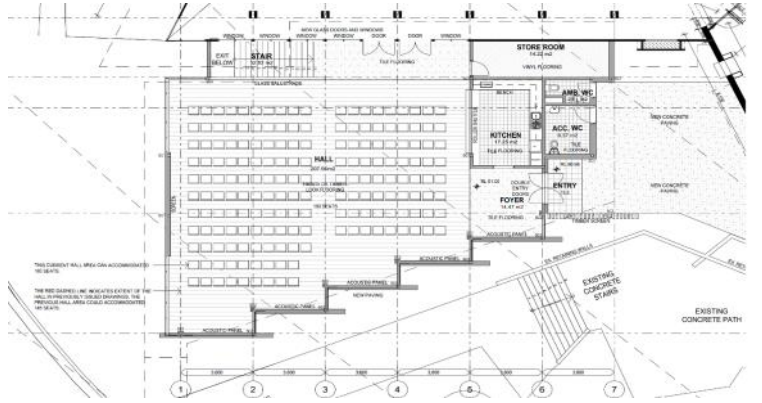
Parish Hall/Office Project Plan



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

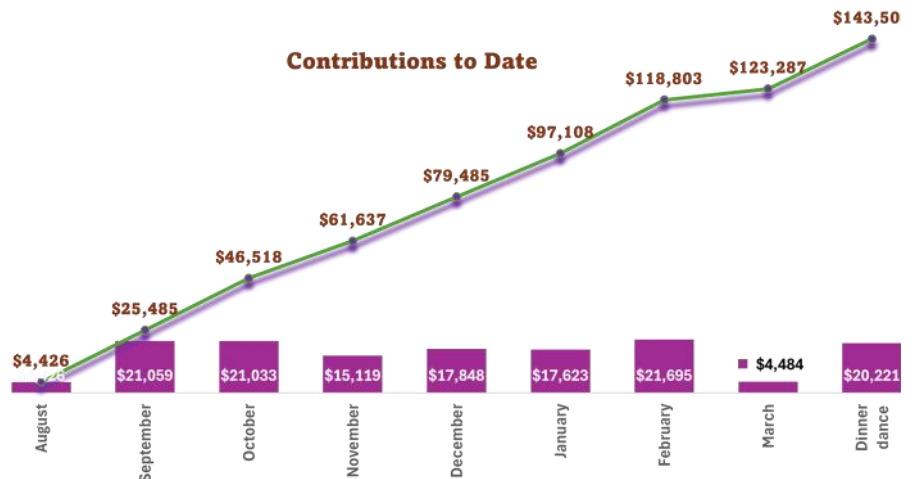
☎ 02 9629 4444

🌐 www.climbingladders.com.au



PH 0406 181 188

<http://tripleevents.com>



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/RSVPs please call or text
Frank 0459 504 625 or Trevor 0407 150 399



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

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	



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.

Alpha



Warmly invites you to a Christian Life Program (CLP)

Starting on April 12, 2026 at 2:00 pm
160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens 2768

Couples for Christ (CFC) is a Catholic movement intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Christian Life Program (CLP) is an established worldwide program intended to lead participants into fuller understanding of God's call to them as Christians

Open to all Couples, Single (22 to 40), Single Fathers/Mothers, Widows/Widowers and Divorced. No cost to attend.

*Renewed Commitment to Family Life
*Fuller experience of Life in the Spirit
*Stronger Relationship with God

Contact: Benedick 0476410458 Lito 0450704341 Nick 0412553584

For more information about CFC, please visit the following websites:
www.couplesforchrist.org
<http://www.cfc-australia.org.au/>



What is the significance of Palm Sunday?

Definition and Overview

Palm Sunday refers to the day on which Jesus entered Jerusalem in a manner that fulfilled long-awaited messianic prophecies, marking the beginning of His final week before the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection. Often called the Triumphal Entry, this event is commemorated on the Sunday before Resurrection Sunday. In the Gospel accounts, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt, while a crowd spreads palm branches and cloaks along the road.

Biblical Context

All four Gospels describe this entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19). Each highlights how Jesus planned the arrival on a specific young donkey (or colt). Matthew 21:5 quotes the Old Testament prophecy: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The public nature of this event is notable, since Jesus had often counseled individuals He healed or taught to remain discreet (compare Mark 1:44; 8:30). Here, however, Jesus allows the crowd's praises to affirm His rightful title.

Prophetic Fulfillment

The prophecy referenced comes primarily from Zechariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey-on a colt, the foal of a donkey." This promise pointed forward to a messianic King who would arrive in a gentle yet authoritative manner. Jesus' entry took place during a climactic time: the pious crowds had gathered for the Passover festival. First-century historian Josephus documents the magnitude of the crowds converging in Jerusalem during Passover, lending plausibility to Scripture's portrayal of a large audience witnessing Jesus' entry.

Symbolism of Palms and Donkeys

Palms in the ancient Near East often represented victory, celebration, and homage. John 12:13 specifically notes the crowd "took palm branches and went out to meet Him." Such branches signified honor and festive welcome. In Revelation 7:9, the image of a great multitude worshipping God with palm branches appears again, thus connecting these symbolic leaves to themes of victory and praise.

The donkey similarly holds a deep symbolic meaning. In many ancient Near Eastern cultures, a donkey signified peace. Conquering kings rode stallions; peacemaking kings, however, rode donkeys to demonstrate humility and convey peaceful intent. By selecting a donkey, Jesus highlighted His role as the prophesied Prince of Peace rather than a militant conqueror (Isaiah 9:6).

The Shouts of "Hosanna!"

Another key aspect of Palm Sunday is the cry of "Hosanna!" from the crowds. Matthew 21:9 reads: "The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed were shouting: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! 'Hosanna in the highest!'" The word "Hosanna" is derived from a Hebrew phrase that originally meant "Save, please" (see Psalm 118:25-26). Instead of a mere cheer, it was a hopeful plea for deliverance-acknowledging Jesus as the Savior.

Historical Evidence and Manuscript Reliability

The consistency of the Triumphal Entry across the four Gospels aligns well with the strong manuscript tradition that preserves the New Testament. Early Greek manuscripts, such as Codex Sinaiticus and Codex Vaticanus, contain these accounts with close agreement. Beyond the biblical text, references to first-century Jerusalem's crowded conditions at Passover appear in writings by Josephus and other historians, supporting the backdrop described in the Gospel narratives.

Archaeological finds also confirm typical Middle Eastern practices involving the use of donkeys for transport and ceremonial entries. Combined with the textual consistency, these discoveries reinforce the veracity of the biblical account, indicating that Jesus' approach into the city on a donkey fits well into a real historical and cultural context.

Spiritual Significance

Palm Sunday reveals a profound spiritual truth: the Messiah comes humbly yet powerfully to bring genuine salvation. The entry invites recognition that Jesus is not only a teacher or prophet but the promised King. As He accepts public acclaim and rides peacefully, the crowd's response models the joyful reception God's people should have for their Savior.

Within the broader flow of the Gospels, this event transitions from public praise to the confrontation leading up to the crucifixion-demonstrating how swiftly public opinion can turn when God's plan challenges human expectations. Palm Sunday sets the stage for the atoning sacrifice that would occur just days later, amplifying the significance of the upcoming Passover Lamb who redeems humanity (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Connection to Holy Week

Palm Sunday inaugurates the final sequence of events culminating in the crucifixion and resurrection. After entering Jerusalem to triumphant cries, Jesus spends the following days teaching, confronting religious authorities, and preparing His disciples for His impending sacrifice. As Scripture presents it, these days also feature crucial actions such as the cleansing of the temple (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-18), further highlighting Jesus' regal authority and zeal for pure worship.

By the end of the week, Jesus is sentenced to death, crucified, and laid in a tomb, only to rise from the dead three days later (Luke 24:6-7). Thus, Palm Sunday cannot be separated from Resurrection Sunday: it inaugurates "Holy Week," a time that culminates with the ultimate demonstration of His victory-His resurrection, the central claim of salvation.

Application for Worship Today

Today, many believers commemorate Palm Sunday by carrying palm branches or distributing them in church. These customs symbolically reenact the honor that was paid to Jesus, reminding worshipers to proclaim Him as King in their own lives. Reflecting on Palm Sunday leads to deeper gratitude for the humility and sovereignty Jesus demonstrated.

It also invites reflection on the nature of true discipleship. While many hailed Jesus' arrival, some misunderstood the nature of His kingdom. Recognizing that Jesus came to establish the reign of God in people's hearts encourages individuals to welcome Him sincerely, understanding that He brings peace, forgiveness, and an eternal kingdom (Romans 14:17).

Conclusion

Palm Sunday spotlights the vital crossroads where prophecy, history, and theology meet. The donkey, the palm branches, the shouts of "Hosanna," and the undeniable manuscript testimony of the Gospels all point to the reality of Jesus' identity as the promised Messiah. This day long anticipated by the prophets stands as a bridge to Christ's ultimate work of salvation on the cross and His victorious resurrection.

By commemorating Palm Sunday, the larger narrative of redemption is vividly displayed: the King has come, the crowd rejoices, and the journey to the crucifixion and resurrection is set in motion. Through celebrating this event, believers echo the centuries-old cry: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9).

https://biblehub.com/q/what%27s_palm_sunday%27s_significance.htm

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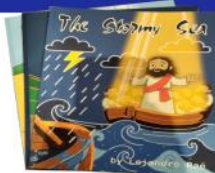
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