



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 all know today's gospel passage as the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It all sounds fairly bland; it's as though it is the story of two people out for a Sunday stroll. But it is not so simple. The clue comes from when the storyteller informs us that their faces were downcast. This is not the story of two disciples: it is the story of two ex-disciples. It is not the story of two heading to Emmaus, but of two running away from Jerusalem.

They had been followers of Jesus, they had seen what he could do and they had believed. But they believed in what they wanted to believe in, not in what God was offering them. They wanted a prophet who would set Israel free. For them that meant one thing: get rid of the Romans and restore the old kingdom of David. They wanted a future that met their expectations. Instead, the God of surprises gave them something different. God had given them someone handed over to be sentenced to death and crucified. As far as they were concerned it was game over; there was nothing positive in that. God had failed them and they were going home. Even when some of their group told them they had seen the risen Lord, these two did not believe them. Dying, let alone rising again, was not part of the plan; it was not what they had signed up for. They were out of there, their minds were closed. Their minds were so closed that even when the risen Lord himself came and walked beside them they failed to recognise him.

Augustine of Hippo was aware of this, when he said in one of his homilies, "These two, even when the Lord was talking to them, did not have faith, because they didn't believe he had risen, nor had they any hope that he could rise again. They had lost faith, lost hope. They were walking along, dead, with Christ alive, they were walking along, dead, with life itself. Life was walking along with them, yet in their hearts life had not yet been restored" (Sermo 235).

How many of us, or how many members of our families or people we know, are like this? We have given Christianity a go and it has not worked out for us. We wanted God to do something for us, and it did not happen. We put God to the test, and God let us down. The message of today's gospel is that when life is getting us down, when we feel all alone and just want to run away and hide, there is the risen Lord walking along side us. As the psalmist says, if we know and see that the Lord is at our right hand, then we can stand firm. We look around us and we see nothing, lo! he is here with us. Here is the reality we proclaim: we do not have to find God: God has already found us. All we have to do is see the grace of God that surrounds us.

How did Cleopas and his friend open their eyes? Augustine tell us in that same homily he preached, "You too, then, if you want to have life, do what they did in order to recognise the Lord. They showed him hospitality ... Constrain the stranger, if

you want to recognise the saviour. What had been lost through infidelity was restored through hospitality'. Already their hearts were burning within them and their hospitality was their response to the gift of hope that he was giving them once again. Be kind to the stranger, for that person may just be the risen Lord.

In the hospitality of the meal, they suddenly realised. Israel was indeed free, not free from the Romans but free from sin. Jesus had bought freedom not by spilling other people's blood, but by spilling his own. In the wine poured out into the cup Cleopas and his friend saw the truth of who God is. Only when bread is broken and shared are people nourished. Israel was indeed restored, not for power but for service. The broken bread we eat here each week, and the poured-out wine we drink here each week, tell us that living comes from dying and receiving comes from giving. The challenge for those of us who eat his body and drink his blood is to become him for others. Our mission is to be the risen Lord walking beside those who have lost hope and faith. Our mission is to explain the Scriptures to others, to make their hearts burn with new life. Our mission is to have our bodies broken in love and service of others, particularly the stranger; to have our blood poured out in love and service of others, particularly the downtrodden.

There are so many things to thank God for today: for the risen Lord who finds us when we run away; for the Lord who changes despair into hope; for the Lord who rekindles our hospitality; for the Lord who gave himself that we may live; for opening our eyes to see him who is no longer with us in the flesh, through his body and blood that we share. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.

*Geoffrey D Dunn*



  
**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

**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 Or if you would like a visit from the Vincentians, please contact the Parish Office or share the relevant contact details with us.

**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)

**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

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

### First Reading

Acts 2:14, 22-33

*It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.' 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witness to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11

**R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R.**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

You will show me the path of life, and the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

### Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

*The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

of Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!



### 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

Juan Redoblado, Roberto Mamaril

#### Remembrances:

Michelle Mendes, Emy & Sebastian Livolsi, James Youngman

#### Death Anniversary

Virginia Martin, Evalyn Asoy

#### 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 Busuttil, 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 Dadivas, 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

Jae Martin, Bernadette Virwani

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

### Gospel

John 20:19-31

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true, The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Communion Antiphon

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

**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 via the following methods:

- 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 which are available by the entrances.

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



Support can be provided via the registration forms are available at the church foyer or from the website or scan the QR Code

**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 2  
**BSB** 067 950 **A/C** 100002469  
**Reference** - BD (your name)
  - ★ BPOINT - For credit card donation visit <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIPG.SG>
  - ★ scan QRCode
- Thank you for your support!



**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.

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 johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au  
 McGrath Northwest

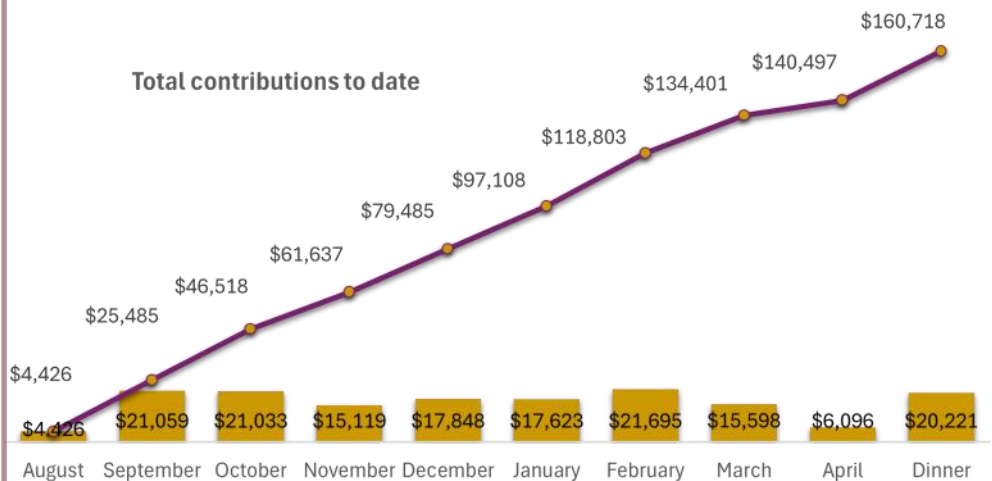


**BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

We have now invited tenders for our building project and received submissions from four builders. We anticipate finalising our selection and accepting a tender by 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

The successful builder is expected to take possession of the site by 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Please continue to keep this project in your prayers and support it through your generous financial contributions.

**Total contributions to date**



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 ☎ (02) 9629 4444 North Kellyville  
 www.climbingladders.com.au

**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  
 ✉ [chukwn@john23rd.org.au](mailto:chukwn@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  
 ✉ [celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
 🌐 [www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

**Holy Cross Primary**  
 49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood  
 Principal: Attila Lendvai  
 ☎ (02) 8664 7100  
 ✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
 🌐 [www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au](http://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](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					
Apr	7	14	21	28	
	Jacob	Sebastian	Ring	Shalini	
May	5	12	19	26	
	Ruggiero	Sebastian	Tina B	Mandapat	
Jun	2	9	16	23	30
	Hala	Mina B	Deang	Available	Available
Jul	7	14	21	28	
	Tambolero	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)



**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.



**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 STILL TIME TO JOIN**

**Diocesan News**



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

## 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.



#### ⇒ Liturgical Ministry

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." Luke 10:

The St. John XXIII Parish Liturgy Team warmly invites parishioners to serve and contribute in the following ministries below

**Training sessions are planned for late April to early May.**

Please contact Parish Office if you are interested or for additional information.



#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Assist in the distribution of Holy Communion during liturgies and bring Communion to the sick and homebound.

Open to men and women aged 18 and above.



#### Ministers of the Word

Proclaim the Scriptures and offer commentary during liturgies.

Open to men and women aged 18 and above.



#### Junior Servers

Assist the Celebrant, Deacons, and Acolytes during liturgical celebrations.

Open to boys and girls aged 10 and above who have received First Holy Communion (Confirmation preferred)



#### Tech Ministry

Support and coordinate technical aspects of the liturgy, including sound systems and projection.

Open to men and women aged 16 and above.  
No prior experience is required.



#### Ushers & Greeters

Greet and assist parishioners, helping to create a warm and welcoming environment.

Open to men, women, and children aged 12 and above.



#### 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.

#### 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) or

DM @blazeyouthsj23 on Insta | FB or 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](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 Limguango 0478 629629 International



#### Young at Heart Seniors Group

Contact either of the following:

Frank Coleiro - 0459 504625

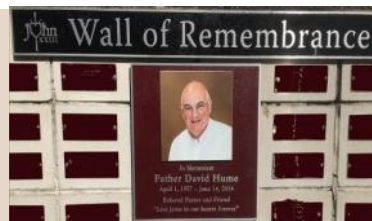
Trevor Coutinho - 0407 150399



## Vinnies

join the good works

Message Rose Franco 0401 387427



#### 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



Building our  
Community  
**TOGETHER**

**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!

**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.

**April Calendar**

Mon	20	8:30am - Mass
Tues	21	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary/Novena Prayer <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	22	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	23	9:15am - Mass
Fri	24	9:15am - Mass
Sat	25	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	26	7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass <i>Ordination to the Diaconate Jeff Hood</i>

**YAHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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 mass	Morning tea

**For all inquiries/confirmation/RSVPs please call or text  
Frank 0459 504 625 or Trevor 0407 150 399**

## PERMANENT DIACONATE

The Catholic diaconate is a permanent order of ordained ministry within the Church, distinct from both the priesthood and the laity. Deacons are ministers of the Church who are ordained by a bishop and serve by proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, distributing the Eucharist, baptising new Catholics, and assisting at weddings and funerals. They may also be involved in various ministries, such as social justice work, prison ministry, and youth ministry.

**The History of the Diaconate**

The Second Vatican Council reinvigorated the ancient order of deacons, reinstating the permanent diaconate. By calling and ordaining deacons the Church is saying something fundamental: that service is at the heart of the human and divine mystery. Deacons are a permanent feature of the Church and the Church is not fully herself wherever deacons, priests or bishops are lacking. Pope Francis was named after the most famous deacon in history. Historically, the deacon served as the eyes and ears of the bishop and in practical ways as the heart and hands. He is a 'go-between' as it were between the secular and the Church.

Deacons are intermediaries, informing the community of the bishop's wishes and, in return, conveying what the community reflects to the bishop. It is a ministry that extends well beyond the walls of the church. The role does not detract from the vital role of an empowered lay faithful, and it should enrich it. A vibrant diaconate will enhance and expand the ministry of the priesthood.

**The Gift and Calling of Deacons**

The gift and calling of the deacon is not for his own sake but for building up the Church in particular ways:

- ✠ To bring God's Word to believer and unbeliever alike;
- ✠ To preside over public prayer, to baptise, to assist at marriages and bless them;
- ✠ To give viaticum to the dying, and to lead the rites of burial;
- ✠ Once he is consecrated by the laying on of hands, he will perform works of charity in the name of the bishop; and
- ✠ To celebrate faithfully the liturgy of the hours for the Church and for the whole world.

In their active involvement in the community, their outreach to the poor and marginalised, and their fostering of Eucharistic communion, deacons sacramentalise the Church's service. The support of a deacon's family is vital and essential for anyone contemplating the ordained ministry of the permanent diaconate.

**The Role of an Ordained Deacon**

An ordained deacon will be appointed to one parish and may be asked to prepare parents and candidates for Baptism, couples for marriage and conduct funerals. As servants of the Word of God they will proclaim the Gospel in the liturgy, preach the homily, pray the prayer of the faithful and participate in sacramental programs. As servants of charity ordained deacons can be chaplains in hospitals, prisons, universities, armed services and visit the sick.

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The Diocese of Parramatta welcomes applications from men who meet the following criteria applicable to this vocation:

- Mature and informed Catholic faith, sound moral character, prayerfulness and a sense of vocation to service;
- Openness to personal, spiritual, theological and ministerial formation, normally over at least four years;
- Involved in an active and positive way in parish life or other apostolic activity for several years and upon recommendation of the parish priest or other appropriate priest who has witnessed this involvement;
- Other appropriate 'people skills' or 'pastoral' experience
- (normally) able to complete tertiary studies in theology;
- If single or widowed, willing to accept celibacy;
- Able to undertake formation and future ministry without detriment to family and work;
- If married, supported by their wife and family;
- Adequate physical and mental health; and
- if unmarried, men must be at least 25 years of age when they are accepted and no more than the commonly accepted retirement age at the time of ordination. If an applicant is married, they must be at least 35 years of age, married for at least seven years, and no more than the commonly accepted retirement age at the time of ordination. Note: formation will generally take at least 4 – 6 years after being accepted by the Bishop into the formation program, so this needs to be considered in estimating the potential age at the time of ordination.
- Applicants must also have the full support of their parish priest.

<https://parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/diaconate/>



*Join us in celebrating the Ordination to the Diaconate of our very own seminarian, Jeff Hood, 26<sup>th</sup> April, Sunday during the 6PM mass. Come and witness this special and grace-filled occasion as he take this important step in his journey of faith, service and dedication to the Church.*

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