

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**

Only Luke separates out resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit over a fifty-day period. The clear implication in John's Gospel is that the Spirit is given on the day of the resurrection and that the ascension has occurred around the same time since, one week later, Jesus invites Thomas to touch him—something that Mary of Magdala had been forbidden one week earlier because the ascension had not yet occurred. In essence they are all different dimensions of the one reality, and the church, in following Luke's chronology, allows us to reflect on this one reality over fifty days in all its richly different aspects.

In Matthew's Gospel what is interesting is that we have the account of the women at the tomb (Matt 28:1-10), the account we proclaimed at the Easter Vigil, where the angel tells them not to be afraid and instructs them to tell the disciples of Jesus' having been raised and instructs them to go to Galilee. On the way to tell the disciples, the women see Jesus, who also tells them not to be afraid. The encounter between the women and the disciples is not described, and what we hear from the very last lines of the gospel, which we have just heard, is that the disciples are in Galilee. When Jesus appears some hesitate to recognise him.

We have a homily preached by Leo the Great, bishop of Rome between 440 and 461, on this solemn feast early in his episcopate, in 444. Leo saw the hesitancy of some of the disciples having a spiritual significance. His explanation was that it was for our benefit:

The Spirit of Truth would by no means have permitted this hesitation, wavering in human weakness, to enter the hearts of his preachers, if their trembling anxiety and questioning delay were not to have established the foundations of our faith. Consequently, it was our doubts, our danger, that was being considered in the apostles. We, in the guise of the apostles, were being instructed against the slanders of the wicked and the proofs of earthly wisdom. Their 'seeing' instructed

us, their 'hearing' informed us, their 'touching' strengthened us. Let us give thanks for the divine plan and the necessary 'slowness' of the Holy Fathers [the apostles]. They 'doubted' so that we need not doubt. (Sermo 73)

In Matthew's Gospel, the ascension is the moment of the great commissioning. To be a disciple is to be sent into the world to bear witness to the resurrection, to be a messenger of the good news of hope and promise and of the victory of life over death and of love over sin. We hear no more about the fear of the disciples after this. This is the paradox of Christianity: the one who was dead is alive, the one who has gone remains with us, those who fail are forgiven, those who fear are fortified. This is the mystery of faith, this is the hope God's call holds for us. Would that we allow the eyes of our minds to be enlightened by this promise of the rich glories we are to inherit.

These rich glories are beyond our wildest dreams. Leo the Great concluded that the promise of the ascension is not that we shall be restored to the paradise of our first parents, but we shall be raised to the heights of heaven itself and dwell in the very presence of God:

Since the ascension of Christ is our elevation, and since, where the glory of the head has preceded us, there hope for the body is also invited, let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and be glad with a holy thanksgiving. Today we are established not only as possessors of paradise, but we have even penetrated the heights of the heavens in Christ. (Sermo 73)

In our eucharist we are thankful that the Christ who has left us is still present with us in the bread that is his body and the wine that is his blood. We share in this meal that we may share in the triumph of life over death, in the triumph of love over death. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.

*Geoffrey D Dunn*

**Support the Bishop's Good Works Appeal**  
**Appeal Weekend: 16-17 May**

**Mass Times**

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

**Masses of Devotion**

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

**Exposition + Benediction**

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

**Reconciliation**

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

**Sacraments**

<b>Sun</b>	12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i>
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**Prayers**

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

**Special Blessings**

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

**Homebound?**

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

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

### First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

### Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. 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

Lucy Camilleri, Roselily Leonardo, Imelda Escordial, Leticia Hitchen

#### Remembrances:

#### Death Anniversary

Maria Tereza De Brito E Mendes

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

#### Thanksgiving

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

Matthew 28:16-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, 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**



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

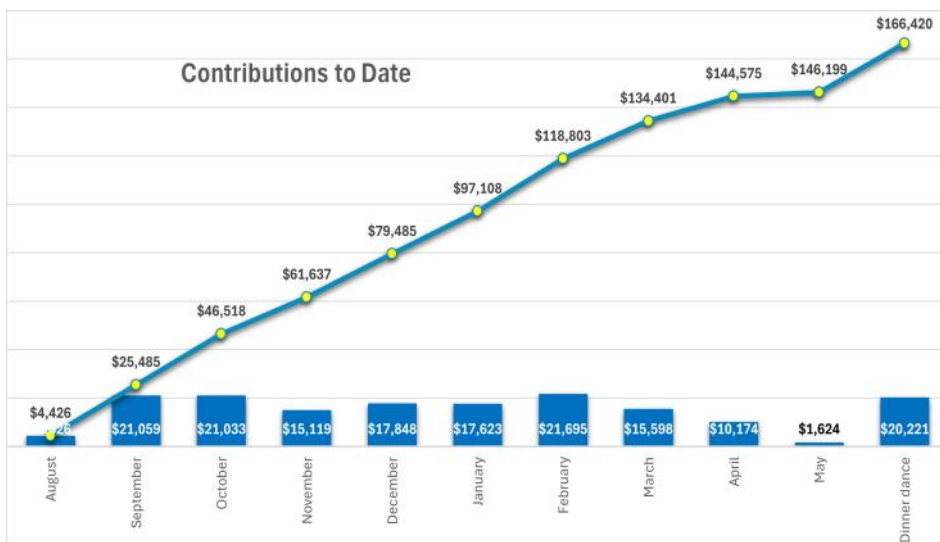


Where the journey begins

For children aged 6 weeks to 6 years



**EXPLORE OUR LEARNING PLACES**  
 ☎ (02) 8610 3775 Stanhope Gardens  
 ☎ (02) 8678 9149 Rouse Hill  
 ☎ (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

✉ [chukwnn@john23rd.org.au](mailto:chukwnn@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



## Praying together

*When we come together in prayer, our faith is strengthened and our community grows closer. Join us every Tuesday at 7:00 PM at SJ23rd Parish Church as we pray the Rosary. This is an opportunity to deepen your faith and open your heart to the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

Rosary Statue Family Roster					
May	5	12	19	26	
	Ruggiero	Sebastian	Tina B	Mandapat	
Jun	2	9	16	23	30
	Hala	Mina B	Deang	Erasmus	Fernandes
Jul	7	14	21	28	
	Tambolero	Ring	Available	Available	
Aug	4	11	18	25	
	Available	Available	Available	Available	

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

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



## Diocesan News

### Nominations open for the 2026 Papal & Diocesan Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Papal and Diocesan Awards, recognising individuals - both religious and lay - who have made outstanding contributions to the Catholic Church and its community.

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised?

Nominations close at midnight on 30 June 2026. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org)



### Positions Vacant

- ⚙ Housekeeper Supervisor - Holy Spirit Seminary
- ⚙ Parish Secretary - St Monica's Church, Richmond

Learn more at [parracatholic.org/jobs](http://parracatholic.org/jobs)

## 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)

## Diocesan News



For more events please go to <https://parracatholic.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.

#### Lectors

#### 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.

## 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](https://www.instagram.com/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](https://www.instagram.com/ignite_sj23)

#### CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

Roijith de Silva 0405 9563210 Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009

#### YFC (Youth for Christ)

Dominic Lim 0468 826253 *Australia*

Ronan Languangco 0478 629629 *International*



#### Young at Hearts Seniors Group

Contact either of the following:  
Frank Coleiro - 0459 504625  
Trevor Coutinho - 0407 150399



## Vinnies

join the good works  
Message Debra Pitre 0412 570 333

## 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.

Contact: Joyce Celestino

☎ 0450 001 047

✉ [joyce\\_claire16@hotmail.com](mailto:joyce_claire16@hotmail.com)

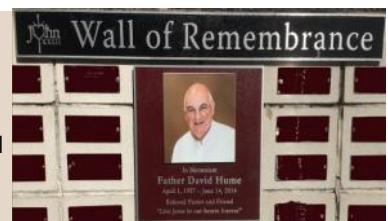


### COLUMBARIUM

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

### MEMORIAL WALL

The wall in front of the church is devoted to the memory of our deceased family and friends, especially if they are buried overseas. For any enquiries please email [columbarium@john23rd.org.au](mailto:columbarium@john23rd.org.au)  
The plaques cost \$600.00



# UPCOMING Community EVENTS



Building our Community TOGETHER

Please contact either  
Nanette - 0404 465600  
Techie - 0438 201436

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

## Pentecost Sunday

24th May 2026, 10:30am

Let us celebrate and take pride in your heritage!

Be part of this vibrant cultural gathering. Come dressed in your native attire and join us for a food bazaar. Bring along your traditional dishes to share with the community and/or to offer for sale.

Enjoy a day filled with games, fun, and exciting prizes!

For more information and food coordination, please contact either  
Techie 0438 201436 or Nanette 0404 465600



### A Friendly Reminder to Our Parish Community

We kindly ask all parishioners to help care for our church by tidying up after Mass. Simple gestures - such as disposing of rubbish properly and returning items like bulletins (if not taking them home) make a meaningful difference. Together, let us keep our church clean, welcoming, and ready for all who enter. Thank you for your care and consideration in looking after our shared spiritual home.

### May Calendar

Mon	18	8:30am - Mass
Tues	19	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary   Novena prayer <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	20	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	21	9:15am - Mass
Fri	22	9:15am - Mass
Sat	23	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	24	<i>Pentecost</i> 7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

### YAHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10<sup>th</sup> July, Friday after mass | Morning tea

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



Watch out for the 8D Alliance Food Truck serving up a delicious sausage sizzle on the day Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May after the 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM morning Masses. Come me along, grab a bite, and enjoy great food and community! All proceeds to go to the Church Hall Project.

Thank you for supporting our Mother's Day Stall. We had a wonderful response and a successful sale. We hope all our mothers enjoyed receiving the beautiful flowers. Through your generosity, we raised approximately \$1,000 which will go towards our Hall Project. Once again, thank you to all our parishioners for your continued support, generosity, and community spirit.

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

On Trinity Sunday, please join  
*His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Balvo,*  
the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia and  
*Most Rev Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv,*  
Bishop of Parramatta  
for a special Mass to celebrate  
**40 years of the Diocese of Parramatta.**

Together, let's celebrate and give thanks for the growth, development and many blessings that have shaped our faith and Catholic community over four decades.

**Sunday 31 May 2026 | 2pm**  
**St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta**

SCAN HERE TO RSVP

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea to share  
(NOTE: no access to heating or cooling)

46 YEARS AFTER ...

"THE SIGN"

A JOURNEY...

LANNI FIDES

Do you remember our parishioners Primo and Lyn, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary last month? We are pleased to share that their book, "46 Years After ... The Sign", which tells the story of their love, faith, and life journey, is now available for purchase for \$20 per copy. All proceeds from book sales will go towards our Church Building Project. To purchase a copy, please send a text message to Lyn on 0468 424 794. Only 50 copies are available, so be quick! Thank you for your support and generosity. God bless your generous hearts ♥

The Ascension of the Lord—Solemnity

Quote:

*When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ~ Acts 6:1–12*

**Reflection:** The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord commemorates the fortieth day after the Resurrection when Jesus ascended body and soul into Heaven and took His seat at the right hand of His Father. Traditionally, the location of the Ascension is believed to be less than a mile east of the Old City of Jerusalem, and that spot is marked by the Chapel of the Ascension, which is said to contain a miraculous imprint of the footprints of Christ before He ascended. The event of the Ascension is found in the Gospels and Acts (Mark 16:19–20; Luke 24:50–53; Acts 1:6–12). It is also alluded to in various other passages (John 6:62; Ephesians 4:7–10; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 3:21–22).

Only Jesus and His Blessed Mother have entered into the glories of Heaven, body and soul. Jesus' Ascension implies that He did so by His own authority and power. The Blessed Virgin Mary's Assumption implies that she entered Heaven, body and soul, by God's power, and not her own.

The Ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission. He first united His divine nature with human nature through the Incarnation at the moment of the Annunciation. Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that from that moment on, Jesus, the Son of God, experienced three types of knowledge. First, being God, He had beatific knowledge, that is, a direct knowledge of His essence, the Father's essence, and the Holy Spirit's essence. Second, He had the perfection of infused knowledge, that is, a bestowal of all truths given to the angels in Heaven, especially those truths necessary for the completion of His divine mission. Third, He began to acquire learned knowledge, or experiential knowledge. This was the form of knowledge attained through His human nature from the senses and His human reason.

As Jesus fulfilled His mission through life, His learned knowledge continued to grow until it was perfected in human form. It was never imperfect in the sense of sin, but only in the sense of growth through human experience and human love. He experienced all things, allowed the perfection of His beatific and infused knowledge to guide His human experiences and brought those human experiences and knowledge to perfection. His free embrace of the Cross manifested the perfection of divine love in human form, and His Resurrection brought that perfect unity of human and divine love to a new and transformed resurrected state of human existence. But that was not all. Today we commemorate the fact that Jesus took His perfected human nature into the Beatific Vision, enabling humanity itself to follow. The Blessed Virgin Mary was the first to do so given her sinless state.

Liturgical Color: White

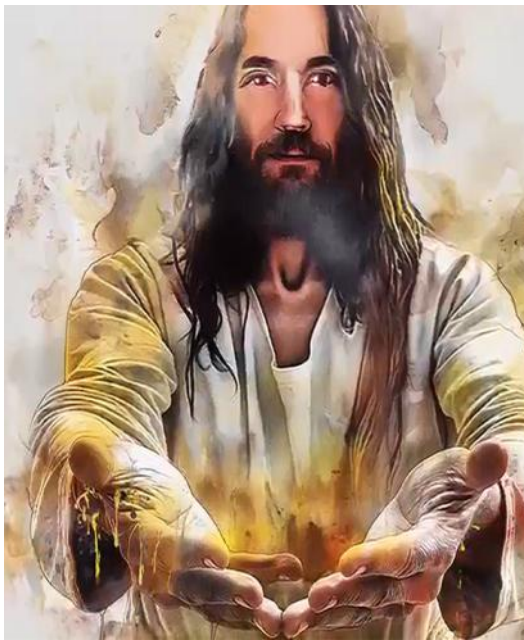
The final stage of the salvation of humanity will take place when Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead. At that time, every human body will rise, will endure the final purification and transformation, and will share in the new and resurrected state in which the faithful will be able to stand, body and soul, before the Most Holy Trinity and experience the fullness of the Beatific Vision forever. What Jesus has already accomplished in His human form is what we look forward to in hope at the end of time.

The Feast of the Ascension was celebrated annually from as early as apostolic times. Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, and Saint Augustine all attest to this fact. When the Council of Nicaea set the date for the celebration of the Resurrection in 325, it chose to keep Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox in spring. This decision also set the day for the Ascension being forty days after Easter, on a Thursday. Today, many ecclesiastical provinces transfer the Thursday celebration to the following Sunday to provide for a wider celebration.

Though every aspect of Christ's life is shrouded in mysteries which will only be fully understood by the faithful when they stand before Him and behold the Beatific Vision, today we especially ponder this beautiful and profound mystery of our faith. As we celebrate the Ascension, try to prayerfully meditate upon the perfect unity of Jesus' human and divine natures. Ponder further the truth that because the Son of God is both God and man, and He beholds His Father and the Holy Spirit as both God and man, He invites each of us to begin to share in that glorious vision. Only after we fully die in and with Him and rise to new life in and with Him will we be able to know Him clearly and share in His glorious resurrected and ascended life. Until that moment comes, it's important to ponder that which is incomprehensible. We must know that we do not know, believe what is beyond belief, hope in that which is more than we can understand. God is a mystery; the Ascension is a mystery—but they are mysteries that must be penetrated by prayer. Do so today as we commemorate this holy culmination of the earthly life and mission of Christ.

**Prayer:** *My Ascended Lord, forty days after You rose from the dead You ascended to the right hand of the Father in Heaven, taking up Your throne from which You pour forth both judgment and mercy. As we honor this great mystery of Your divine and human life, I beg for mercy upon me and upon the whole world. Free us from all sin, and open the floodgates of Your mercy so that all people will share one day, body and soul, in the glory of Your Beatific Vision. Jesus, I trust in You.*

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/the-ascension-of-the-lord/>

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