

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**

One of my philosophy professors told me there were two sets of alternatives at the heart of philosophy, which is another way of saying that there are two fundamental choices between two different ways at the heart of understanding life. The years have proven, at least as far as I am concerned, just how insightful this observation was. The two sets of alternatives are one and many, and being and flux. The solemn feast of Pentecost, the last day of our Easter season, gives us the opportunity to reflect on the first set: one and many. When we look out at the world, are we the kind of persons who see what we have in common with others and see what unites us, or are we the kind of persons who first notice the differences between us and other people: either our gender, or our skin colour, or our language, or our religion, or our social status, or our nationality, or our education, or our occupation? There are so many things that make us different from one another that it is a rare person who is able to focus on what makes us one.

Yet, it is our Christian vocation, given to each of us in baptism, to be people of oneness and unity. Being one is a key concept in John's Gospel, as we see in the great prayer of Jesus, which we find inserted into the Last Supper narrative. That unity is brought about by the Spirit. In John's Gospel the giving of the Spirit to the disciples occurs not at Pentecost, as we hear in Acts of the Apostles, but on the evening of Easter Sunday itself. While the various texts of the New Testament may not agree on their chronology, they do agree on the important point about the significance and purpose of the Spirit being given.

Augustine of Hippo expressed this significance well in one of his homilies preached to his congregation in the early years of the fifth century about how the disunity symbolised by the tower of Babel was reversed by the conferring of the Spirit:

At Pentecost, by contrast, the humble piety of believers brought all these diverse languages into the unity of the church. What discord had scattered, love was to gather together. Like the limbs of a single body, the separated members of the human race would be restored to unity by being joined to Christ, their common head, and welded into the oneness of a holy body by the fire of love. Anyone therefore who rejects the gift of peace and withdraws from the fellowship of this unity cuts himself off from the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Sermo 271) [Footnote: The excerpts from the translations of Augustine's sermons that appear in these reflections come from Augustine, Sermons, trans. Edmund Hill, 11 vols in The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the 21st Century series (New York: New City Press, and Augustinian Heritage Institute, 1991-1997).]

Acts of the Apostles shows us how the earliest Christians attempted to live this unity: it was a unity in diversity, not a unity based on uniformity. There was a unity based on a common experience of the love, forgiveness, and peace of Jesus. In a fractured world, we, as Christian people, must be living beacons of unity. We know we have the Spirit when our actions lead to reconciliation, not division; when they lead to understanding, not anger; when they lead to hope, not despair. We are thankful today for the gift of the Spirit, who inflames our hearts and makes us one.

*Geoffrey D Dunn*

**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

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

### First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches. **R.**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works! May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

*In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.*

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

Seq. Accl

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, From the clear celestial height Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor, Come with treasures which endure Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful guest, Dost refreshing peace bestow

Thou in toil art comfort sweet Pleasant coolness in the heat Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, Visit thou these hearts of thine, And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away, Nothing pure in man will stay All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew On our dryness pour thy dew Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will Melt the frozen, warm the chill Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore Thee confess and thee adore, With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die Give us life with thee on high Give us joys that never end.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. 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

Joaquim Crasto, Lucy Camilleri, Leticia Hitchen

#### Remembrances:

Hector Alico

#### Death Anniversary

Denis Lobo

#### 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

Father Jolly Chacko

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

### Gospel

John 20:19-23

*As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.*

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Communion Antiphon

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.



Receive the Holy Spirit

**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.

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 johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au  
 McGrath Northwest

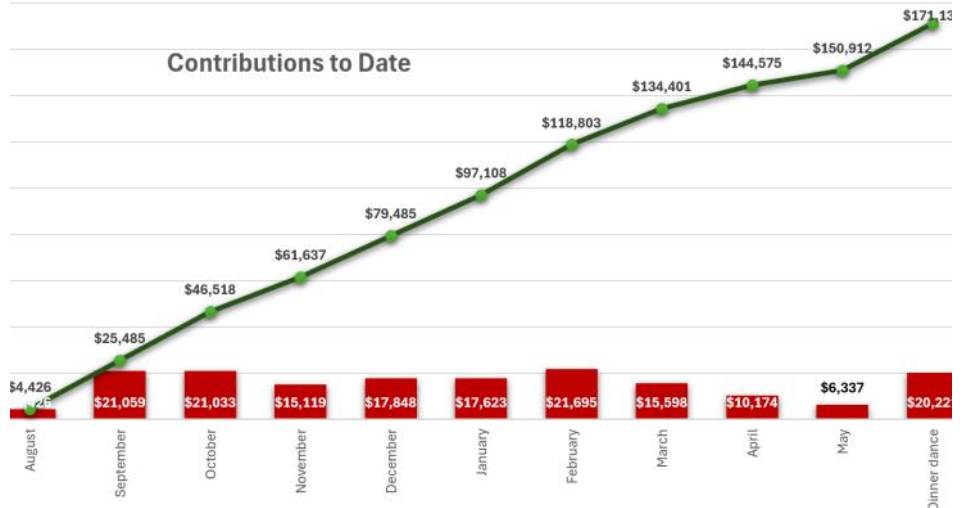


Where the journey begins

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](http://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

**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

**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

**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 and a novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.  
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	Pangilinan E	

*"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**

Across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal, our Diocese supports vital ministries including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Over the coming weeks, this Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call.

Please give generously at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan the QR code




**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)

**Adult Confirmations 2026**

The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday 29th August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. It is recommended that all sponsors attend the catechesis day. A contribution of \$40 is suggested from the candidates to assist in covering the Catechesis Day.

The Confirmation will take place on Tuesday 1st September, 2026 at 7:30pm at the Cathedral. Please Note: Enrolment forms and a copy of Baptismal Certificates should be sent to OFW before Monday 18th August, 2026. For more information, please contact the Office for Worship [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.

**Ministry of Care courses: 3-24 June**

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place every Wednesday in June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Please register via [parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses](http://parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses) to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795.



**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.

#### 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)

Roijth de Silva 0405 9563210 Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009

#### YFC (Youth for Christ)

Dominic Lim 0468 826253 Australia

Ronan Limguangco 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)

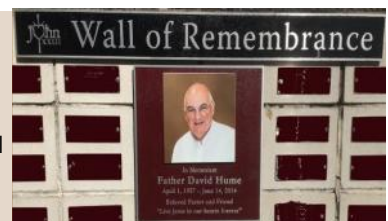


### COLUMBARIUM

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!

### 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	25	<i>Our Lady, Help of Christians (S)</i> 8:30am - Mass
Tues	26	<i>Saint Philip Neri (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary   Novena prayer <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	27	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	28	9:15am - Mass
Fri	29	9:15am - Mass
Sat	30	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	31	<i>Most Holy Trinity</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
<b>For all inquiries/confirmation/RSVPs please call or text Frank 0459 504 625 or Trevor 0407 150 399</b>	

**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 ♥

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the 8D Alliance Real Estate team, through our parishioners Alex & Aloha Dera, for generously hosting two sausage sizzles in support of our Hall Project. All proceeds from these events have gone towards this important parish initiative. If you are interested in building wealth and securing your future through property investment, please contact the team  
Phone +61 498 183 832 or email [info@8da.com.au](mailto:info@8da.com.au) or check their website <https://8da.com.au/> 

**MARY QUEEN OF THE FAMILY**

**Be The Witness**



What a truly joyful, uplifting, and spirit-filled experience it was listening to the Be The Witness choral group. Their powerful voices, beautiful harmonies, and heartfelt performance touched every soul and filled the atmosphere with inspiration and hope. Thank you for blessing the St John XXIII community with your extraordinary gift of music and witness of faith. Your performance was both moving and unforgettable. Don't miss the opportunity to experience Be The Witness at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre from September 10-13.



The Mother's Day Celebration Lunch at the CSI Marconi Club last Friday was another successful YAH event. Thirty seniors from our group, including our Parish Priest, Fr Jolly, attended and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to come together in fellowship. The convenient venue, welcoming atmosphere and wide selection of delicious menu options were greatly appreciated by all. Overall, it was a wonderful and enjoyable occasion filled with friendship, laughter, and community spirit.

## Why did the Holy Spirit need to come on Pentecost?

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the Church after He ascended into Heaven. On the fiftieth day after Easter, ten days after Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Church recalls how the Holy Spirit descended upon those gathered in the Upper Room with all the power of a mighty tornado, but without destruction, in order to dwell forever in the Church and in the hearts of the faithful. It is essential that God the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost. Let's take a closer look.

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. The Father has poured out His love for all eternity toward His Son. The Son, for all eternity, has returned that love for the Father. This bond of love between the Father and the Son is a third Person, the Holy Spirit. It is important to remember that the Holy Spirit is represented in the Bible by signs, such as wind, flames of fire, a pillar of cloud, or a dove. These signs help us to know the Holy Spirit is present and are necessary as He is true Spirit and does not have a physical body.

On Pentecost, we see the signs of a mighty wind that filled the Upper Room and tongues as of fire that rested on the Apostles together with the women and Mary and the disciples, as they were filled with the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 2:1-4). As Jesus had commanded the Apostles to go forth and make disciples of all nations, they were now "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49), the needed power and presence of the Holy Spirit, strengthening them to overcome the fear that had seized them to the point of running away during Jesus' passion and crucifixion. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles went forth to teach, preach, and baptize, while the disciples and women also went forth to bear witness to Jesus as the Son of God and our Savior.

## Prayers to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.  
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too, may be holy.  
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
that I love but what is holy.  
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
to defend all that is holy.  
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
that I always may be holy. Amen.

### Fire blessing

May the fire be in your thoughts,  
Making them good and just,  
May it protect you from all harm.

May the fire be in your eyes,  
May it open your eyes to see what is good in life,  
May it protect you from speaking against another.

May the fire be in your ears,  
We pray that you may hear with deep listening,  
So that you may hear the flow of water  
And of all Creation and the Dreaming.  
May you be protected from gossip  
And from those things that harm and break down your family.

May the fire be in your arms and hands,  
So that you may be of service and build up love.  
May the fire protect you from all violence.

May the fire be in your whole being,  
In your legs and feet,  
Enabling you to walk the earth with respect and care,  
So that you may journey in ways of goodness and trust  
And be protected from walking away from what is true.

## Liturgical Color: Red

### The Holy Spirit comes to us in the Sacraments.

The Holy Spirit did not just come at Pentecost but comes to us in the Sacraments. In Baptism, there is a special outpouring of the Spirit as He dwells in our hearts; thus we become temples of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism we also receive the gifts of faith, hope, and charity as well as the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of Confirmation these gifts are increased and we are given a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess His name boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

During the Holy Eucharist, the priest begs the Father to send the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier so that the offerings may become the Body and Blood of Christ. By His transforming power, the Holy Spirit makes Christ present in the Holy Eucharist

### The Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray.

Another reason that we are thankful for the coming of the Holy Spirit is that He teaches us to pray to our Heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit is called the interior Master of Christian prayer as He helps us even to know what to pray for. "Likewise the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words" (Romans 8: 26). Further, if we ask, the Holy Spirit gives us a desire to pray and even helps to bring us to prayer. Moreover, if we pay attention to His inner promptings, the Holy Spirit will guide our actions and we see these effects in our life. The fruit of a relationship with the Holy Spirit is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5: 22). Prayer is the foundation for knowing and following the will and actions of the Holy Spirit. Let us celebrate the true Gift of Pentecost and take the time in prayer to develop a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Why-did-the-Holy-Spirit-need-to-come-on-Pentecost.pdf>



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