

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**

These days if we want to find out how to get somewhere, we simply type the address into a map app and up will pop directions on how to get there. Often we are given several options about which way to go. Many people view getting to heaven the same way: Catholics go this way, Protestants go that way, the Orthodox go along a third route, Buddhists another, Muslims their own way, but eventually everyone will end up in the same place.

The Gospel of John seems to present some difficulties for holding that view. Jesus is presented as saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'. If he is the way, is he the only way? The next sentence seems to make that clear that he is the only way: 'No one can come to the Father except through me'. This raises the serious question: can non-Christians be saved? If they can be saved apart from through Jesus, then why do we bother with so much missionary work? If they cannot be saved, then God seems unfair in condemning those who have never had the opportunity of hearing about Jesus. These issues have plagued Christianity for centuries.

Just what does it mean to come to the Father through Jesus? Does it mean that one has to have heard of him? Does it mean that one has to belong to his community of disciples, the church? Could it not mean that Jesus saves through a variety of means or through a variety of communities? At the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s the bishops of the Catholic Church taught definitively in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) that salvation is open to non-Christians if they follow the commands of their conscience, where the Spirit communicates with them. The Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio) also taught that non-Catholic Christians can come to salvation because they are members of Christ's body, the church, however imperfectly. Does this mean everyone will be saved, no matter what? The first letter of Peter tells us that those who reject Jesus, the living stone, will stumble and fall because they do not believe. So it is still possible to reject God and reject Jesus as the way, but we should not automatically think that everyone who is not baptised has therefore explicitly rejected Jesus.

It is possible to believe that salvation is only through Jesus and to believe that Jesus can offer that salvation outside the visible confines of the Catholic Church or of Christianity in general. The great Jesuit theologian of the twentieth century, Karl Rahner, described this as anonymous Christianity—a view not without critics of either conservative or liberal inclination. Perhaps Rahner could have found a better term than 'anonymous Christian', for in essence his focus was on the universal love of God made visible through Jesus and communicated through the Spirit without limit. People can only be saved through Jesus, even if they do not know that it is he who is saving them. Once we start dealing with God's will, our ability to know it perfectly is something I would hesitate to assert.

In preaching on this passage of John's Gospel, however, Augustine of Hippo did not dwell on such matters. He was concerned rather with the people in front of him, those who knew Christ and who explicitly followed his way. Augustine's concern is what kind of way it was that Christ calls those of us who are baptised to follow. Augustine said, 'Christ the way is the humble Christ; Christ the truth and the life is Christ exalted and God. If you walk along with the humble Christ, you will arrive at the exalted Christ; if in your sickly health and debility you do not spurn the humble one, you will abide in perfect health and strength with the exalted one' (Sermo 142).

The way of Jesus is the way of the cross, it is the humble way of dying to oneself that others may live, it is the way of turning away from sin and being faithful to the gospel. We thank God for the living stone, who is Jesus; we thank God for ourselves as the living stones forming his body. We thank God that through baptism we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a consecrated nation. In our eucharist now let us sing the praises of God, who has brought us light and life, the truth and way, through Jesus. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.

Geoffrey D Dunn

Seminarian **Jeff Hood** had been with us in the parish for the last 6 months as part of his pastoral placement. Now, as you all know, he is **Deacon Jeff**.

He was ordained as a Deacon last Sunday by Bishop Vincent.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our parishioners for your support and prayers during his time with us. His ordination liturgy was one of the best. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed. Thank you to our combined choir, the young people who played the drums, the altar servers, the liturgy team, our parish staff, those who prepared the hall, those who provided the food and served and those who came to participate in the mass.

Now, as he moves on to a new assignment as a transitional Deacon at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes, may our prayers accompany him on his journey to priesthood. We thank Deacon Jeff for his time in the parish.

On behalf of you all I wish him all the best and let us continue to pray for him.

**Fr. Jolly Chacko, MS**



**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.

**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/>

### Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

### First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

### Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Special Intentions *Names published with permission*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

#### Born to eternal life

Lucy Camilleri, Roselily Leonardo, Imelda Escordial

#### Remembrances:

#### Death Anniversary

#### Sick

*Lord Jesus, heal me. Heal in me whatever You see needs healing. Heal me of whatever might separate me from You. Heal my memory, heal my heart, heal my emotions, heal my spirit, heal my body, heal my soul. Lay Your hands now gently upon me and heal me through Your love for me. Amen.*

Brian McCunnie, John Tipton, Valeria Laureta, Natasha Leitao, Bev Osborn, Carlo Bueno, Helen West, Fausto Bayot, Myrna Manalili, Elizabeth Candame Ksenija Bosnic, Zena Samar, Charlie Busuttill, 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 McCarrroll, Rosie Carbonel, Renado Naldo, Cathie Christie, Hilary Regan, Mary Phillips, Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly, Jerwin McCarron, Emma Matoza, Zoey Ilic, Margaret Harrison, Jude Newnes, Maria Romeo, Carlo Dominic, Troy James, Manuel Sarris, Ryan Dixon, Barbara Thompson

#### Thanksgiving

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

### Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

### Gospel

John 14:1-12

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

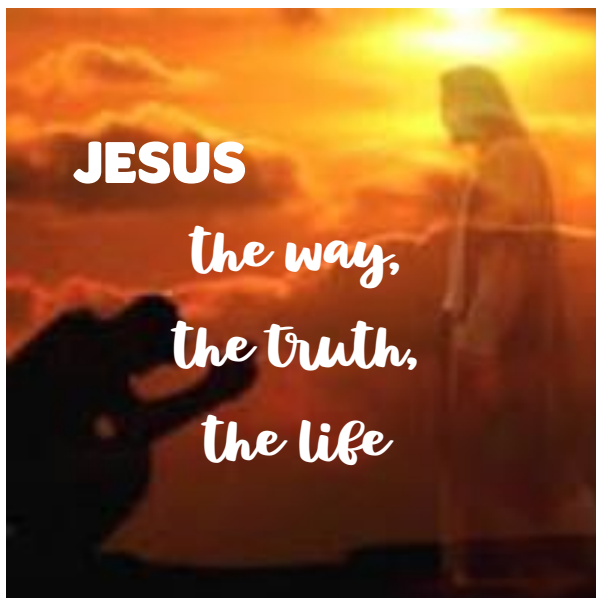
'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, 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 23rd Parish  
**BSB** 067 950 **A/C** 100002469  
**Reference** - BD (your name)
  - ★ BPOINT - For credit card donation visit <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIIPG.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.

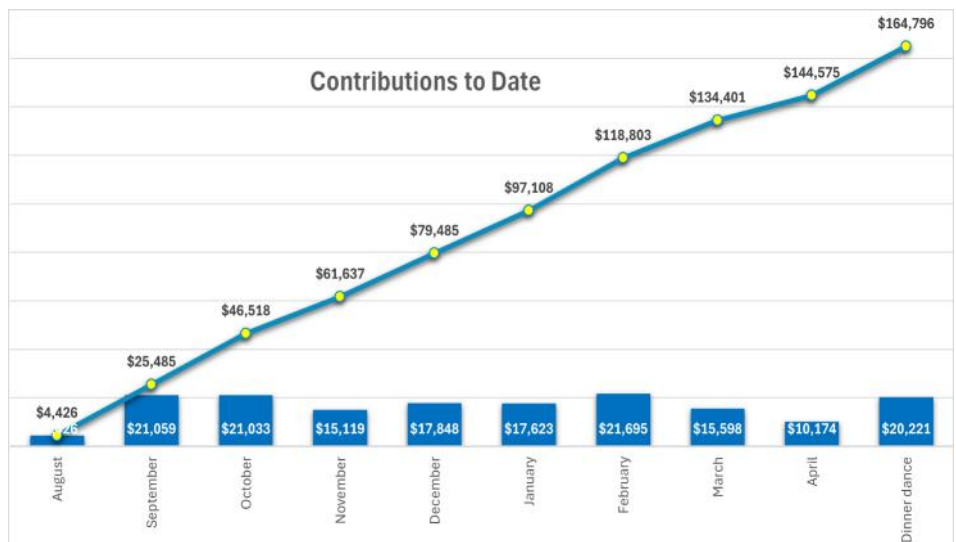
0433 969 731  
 johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au  
 McGrath Northwest



**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.



**CLIMBING LADDERS**  
 Early Learning & Montessori Centre

Where the journey begins  
 For children aged 6 weeks to 6 years

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- (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  
✉ [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



**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 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					
May	5	12	19	26	
	Ruggiero	Sebastian	Tina B	Mandapat	
Jun	2	9	16	23	30
	Hala	Mina B	Deang	Erasmus	Available
Jul	7	14	21	28	
	Tambolero	Available	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 [emcpi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emcpi85@yahoo.com.au)



**Eucharist28 Update – Renewal has begun!**

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centered on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation.

But this is more than an event in Sydney. It is a national journey, an invitation to renewal for the whole Church, wherever we are. The journey begins now, in our own hearts, in our own parishes.

Across the Easter weekend, thousands of catechumens and candidates throughout Australia were baptised and received into full communion with the Church. Our churches were alive with faith—pews filled, hearts renewed.

It was a beautiful witness to what the Church is called to be every week, not only at Christmas and Easter.

The great gift of the Eucharist is that it is not merely a story remembered over a few sacred days. At every Mass, we encounter the reality itself: we offer ourselves to God alongside Christ, truly present in our midst.

How wonderful it would be to see our pews full every week—because people have truly encountered the living Lord in the Eucharist!

For more information and regular updates, please register on the website: [eucharist28.org](http://eucharist28.org)



*"We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!"*  
— Pope Saint John Paul II



A few seniors from the YAH had a great time out on a picnic at the Bella Vista Farm Park last Wednesday. Lots of good food shared, great company and lovely chatting about our individual holiday experience.

**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.

## Lectors



#### 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



#### 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 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 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 Rose Franco 0401 387427

## 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)

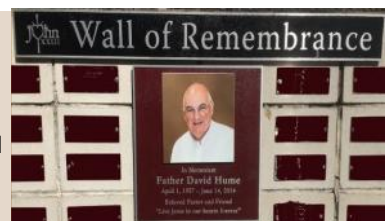


## COLUMBARIUM

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!

## Mother's Day Stall

Save the date, 10<sup>th</sup> May, Mother's Day!  
Proceeds to go towards the hall project.

### 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	4	8:30am - Mass
Tues	5	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary prayer 7:30pm - Novena Mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	6	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	7	9:15am - Mass
Fri	8	9:15am - Mass
Sat	9	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	10	<i>Mother's Day</i> 7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

### YAHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

15 <sup>th</sup> May, Friday, 11:30am	Mother's Day lunch, CSI Marconi, 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

Congratulations to Primo & Lyn Pangilinan on celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, a truly remarkable milestone.



**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)

St John 23rd will be hosting a sneak peek into the choral group of an upcoming Gospel musical, **Be The Witness**, organized by Mary Queen of the Family parishes. Embark on a journey of music, movement, and mission beautifully woven with the message of the gospel.

17th May, Sunday, 5:30pm before the 6:00pm mass



Watch out for the 8D Alliance Food Truck serving up a delicious sausage sizzle. Plus, enjoy a ☕ freshly brewed coffee from our barista on the day Sunday, 3rd May after the 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM morning Masses. Come along, grab a bite, and enjoy great food and community! All proceeds to go to the Church Hall Project.

## Ordination to the Diaconate



It has been my privilege to serve you, the people of St John XXIII parish, for the past eight months. You have welcomed me into your lives and have supported me during my time here. I have found a wonderful spirit of community here. I thank you for your generosity and kindness. I hope that I have served you well.

To Fr Jolly, Fr Barth, the parish staff, Tanya, Helen, Carmen and Renuka, a big thank you for embracing me as a member of your team, for your support, and for the camaraderie that we have shared. To those of you who lead ministry teams and who serve the people of this parish, thank you for your spirit of service. I wish you all well.

It is with some sadness that I leave this parish. I will always hold fond memories of you and of my time here in Stanhope Gardens. I assure you of prayers for you into the future. Please continue to pray for me as I continue my journey towards priesthood. May you always know God's love and faithfulness and may God bless you richly.

**Deacon Jeff Hood**



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## Risen Lord Community Praise & Worship Night

7.30pm FRIDAYS,  
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With over 21 years in Real Estate combined with her Master of Commerce degree in Finance, Julia's commitment to honesty, integrity and genuine care for her clients has earned her a strong reputation and numerous recommendations.

Julia and her family have been actively involved at St John 23rd Parish.

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