

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."

Reflection

This feast has its origins in various churches in France in the early thirteenth century and was introduced to the universal church by Urban IV in 1264, with the involvement of St Thomas Aquinas, the great Dominican theologian, in helping to contribute some of the liturgical texts. It originated in the belief that there was not a feast dedicated to the body of Christ. It probably says something about the inadequate way the eucharist was celebrated ritually in the Middle Ages that this was the time when the elevation of the host during the institution narrative (or words of consecration, as it would have been called then) and Corpus Christi processions developed in response to a need to see what was going on. Every eucharist is a celebration of the body and blood of Christ, and so this is another of those feasts whose existence proves that there was a problem somewhere at some time.

Be that as it may, today's celebration provides an opportunity to focus more particularly on the mystery that is celebrated every time Christians come together in thanksgiving to God. John 6 is the feeding of the five thousand, a passage that was written in light of the eucharistic experience of an early Christian community. Indeed, the earliest account of the eucharist is found in chapter 11 of Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, written at least a generation before John's Gospel was written. The narrative of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand in John is followed by a series of short discourses directed either to the crowds who followed Jesus or to the Jews who complained at what he said. Today we read from Jesus' response to the grumbling Jews within the synagogue at Capernaum with his 'I am the bread of life' speech.

One of the first accusations made against early Christians by the Romans in the generation or two after the death of Jesus was that they were cannibals. It is easy to see why the Romans thought that when the followers of Jesus were going around saying that they were eating his flesh and drinking his blood. In the passage Jesus connects the experience of Christians in the eucharist with the life of the Trinity itself. 'I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me.' As we reflected last week, Jesus is begotten of the Father through a total self-emptying. We are begotten of Jesus, through the Spirit poured into us in initiation, through his total self-emptying on the cross. Just as the Son responds to the Father's total self-emptying through total self-giving, we are called to respond to the Son's total self-emptying for us through total self-giving.

That total self-emptying of Jesus on the cross is made real for us in the bread and wine of the eucharist, which becomes his body and blood. The very nature of bread and wine offers us two ways to reflect upon the mystery of the cross. Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth touches upon both of these ways. One is the image of many making one. It takes many grains of wheat to make one loaf of bread and it takes many grapes to make one cup of wine. Paul makes the point 'we who are many are one body'. The eucharist is a sacrament of unity; it is a living symbol of the unity of the Son, the Father, and the Spirit, a living symbol of and call to our unity in Christ. The second image is of one being divided into many. Paul wrote of the bread that is broken and shared. Conversely, he could also have written about the wine that is poured out and shared. The eucharist is a sacrament of sharing; it is a living symbol of the giving of the Son on the cross, a living symbol of and call to our giving in Christ.

Augustine of Hippo picks up on one of the ideas in John's Gospel in Sermo 132A. He says, 'But how is Christ to be eaten? In the way he says, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. And so if he remains in me and I in him, that's when he eats, that's when he drinks; but anyone who does not abide in me, nor I in him, even if he receives the sacrament, only earns by it great torment".'

We are thankful today for Jesus, who has not left us but remains with us always. We are thankful today for Jesus, who nourishes us with his body and blood that we may be one with him and be welcomed into the life of the triune God. We are thankful today for Jesus, who makes us, the many grains of wheat and the many grapes, into one bread and one cup. We are thankful today for Jesus, whose body is broken and whose blood is poured out that we too are strengthened to give of ourselves for the life of the world.

Geoffrey D Dunn

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 <i>during school days</i>
2nd Sat	7:30pm Indonesian Mass

Masses of Devotion

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

Exposition + Benediction

1st Fri	after 9.15am, 7.30pm
Wed	8:00pm Holy Hour

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

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

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

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



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

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16

He gave you food which you and your ancestors did not know.

Moses said to the people: 'Remember how the Lord your God led you for forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, to test you and know your inmost heart - whether you would keep his commandments or not. He humbled you, he made you feel hunger, he fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known, to make you understand that man does not live on bread alone but that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

'Do not then forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery: who guided you through this vast and dreadful wilderness, a land of fiery serpents, scorpions, thirst; who in this waterless place brought you water from the hardest rock; who in this wilderness fed you with manna that your fathers had not known.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Daniel 3:52-56

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you. **R.**

He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command. **R.**

He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Though we are many, we form a single body because we share this one loaf.

The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. 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

Raymond Miners, Lucy Camilleri, Imelda Luague

Remembrances:

Death Anniversary

Cynthia Rego, Victor Miranda

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 Taliya, Christina Properzi, Gerald Simbulan, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Dudley Francis, Isagani Ocampo, Raymond Lanzona, Lucas Colleta, Rosanna John Pellissery, Brendan Prideaux, Florentina Elisura, Bev Lewis, Mr Thomas, Mary Phillips, Babies with Blister disease Jonathan Gemin, Victor Pons, Joshua McCarroll, Rosie Carbonel, Renado Naldo, Cathie Christie, Hilary Regan, Maria Romeo, Josie Lewis, Emma Matoza, Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly, Jerwin McCarron Zoey Illic, Margaret Harrison, Jude Newnes, Carlo Dominic, Manuel Sarris, Troy James, Ryan Dixon, Barbara Thompson

Thanksgiving

Bart Sarlabus

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

Gospel

John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.

As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

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

Church building project - Ways to donate

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**

- ★ Dedicated "Tap & go" machines
 - ★ Bank transfer
Account name - Glenwood Stanhope Gardens St John 23rd Parish
BSB 067 950 **A/C** 100002469
Reference - BD (your name)
 - ★ BPOINT – For credit card donation visit
<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/StJohnXXIIIPGSG>
 - ★ scan QRCode
- Thank you for your support!

Dear parishioners and friends,

As a parish, we have been experiencing the love of God in various ways, our families, jobs, children, youth and the vibrancy of the community. We are a community that prays together, loves each other and celebrates that love through our liturgy, social gatherings, our generosity and outreach to the needy and the spirit continues to lead us in the right directions. As part of our journey and building the community, we have been praying for the space for our community gatherings and activities, and we are happy to announce that we have obtained all the needed permission to begin the construction of our parish office and hall. We have selected our builder from the number of quotes we have received and are in the process of finalizing the acceptance of the quote. We thank Neena and Ricalyn, from our school, who were so smart to pick up the details of everything that could have been missed easily, our parish members including David Gunawan who were involved at every stage and the diocesan property management team.

We are finally getting ready to begin the actual construction, and we will experience some inconveniences at this point with the flow of our traffic, minor and limited changes with our daily church activities and let us be patient and grow with the virtue of patience. We hope to finish the whole project in 8 months' time (latest by 28th of Feb). The total cost of our project will be \$4.4 million including the air-conditioning of the Church. Through our serious efforts to see through the project happening we have already spent \$200 thousand on this project and we have another \$3.4 million set apart for this project. Thus, it leads us to a shortage of \$800 thousand. As a Parish we had been Dreaming of air-conditioning the Church for a long time. We believe it is better to do both at the same time, to reduce again some of the expenses.

When we see this big figure of \$800 thousand shortage, we can panic but remember each of us are never alone but part of a community. When each of us does our part according to our ability, generosity and willingness, it just happens. Thus, let us put our hearts and minds into it. When we work together nothing is impossible for us. St. John XXIII parish dream together and make that dream of today a reality tomorrow through each of us. Thus, as we prepare to lay the foundation stones soon, may we ask each of you in the parish to be part of that foundation. Please donate the foundation stones and be part of it. Each stone will cost \$100. You are free to donate as many stones as you wish. But at least donate one, which all of us in our parish is capable to do. In this way you all will be part of the foundation of the parish hall, and we thank you for being part of the foundation of our parish hall. Then continue your support the best way you can to complete the project. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have already made some big sacrifices to support the project with their contributions. May your sacrifices be rewarded abundantly by the lord. "God loves a cheerful giver" (2cor, 9:7).

Parish fund raising, finance, Building committees and Fr. Jolly

THANK YOU TO OUR 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



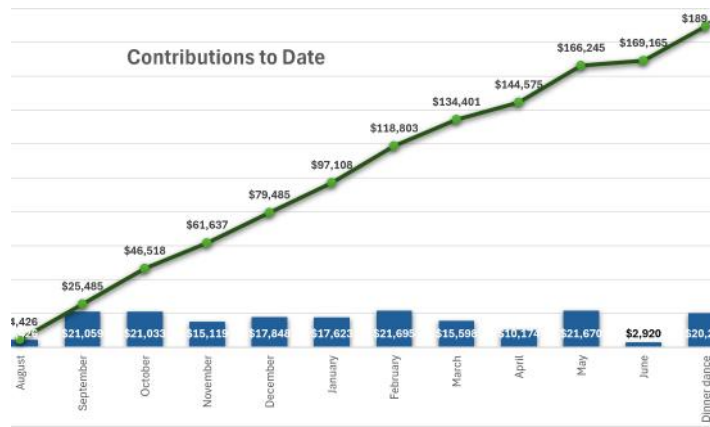
CLIMBING LADDERS
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For children aged 6 weeks to 6 years



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 ☎ (02) 8678 9149 Rouse Hill
 ☎ (02) 9629 4444 North Kellyville
www.climbingladders.com.au



CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours

Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm

Office Contacts

☎ (02) 8883 5981

160 Perfection Avenue,
Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768

MAILING

PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens,
NSW 2768

CLERGY

Parish Priest:

Fr Jolly Chacko

✉ jolly@john23rd.org.au

☎ 0417 541 637 (emergency only)

Assistant Priest:

Fr Bartholomew Chukwu

✉ chukwn@john23rd.org.au

STAFF

Secretary: Tanya Gatt

✉ secretary@john23rd.org.au

Finance: Renuka Soosaipillai

✉ accounts@john23rd.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

✉ sacramental@john23rd.org.au

OTHER CONTACTS

Parish Council:

John McCabe

✉ johnmccabe5@gmail.com

Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ maintenance@john23rd.org.au

Columbarium queries:

✉ columbarium@john23rd.org.au

John McCabe

Mei Velasco

Julian Martin

Suni Fernando

Helen Festejo

Ajith Lobo

Rebecca Reynolds



OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Ambrose Early Learning

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au

Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Attila Lendvai

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ bolycross@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au

St John XXIII Catholic College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Frank Chiment

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ stjohn23stanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au

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

	2	9	16	23	30
Jun	<i>Hala</i>	Mina B	Deang	Erasmus	Fernandes
Jul	7 Tambolero	14 Ring	21 Available	28 Lee	
Aug	4 Available	11 Available	18 Sebastian	25 Pangilinan E	
Sep	1 Available	8 Available	15 Available	22 Erasmus	29

"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton"
Rosary statue contacts Techie Sarlabus techie.sarlabus@gmail.com or Melva Paguinto 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 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

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 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 to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact 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. 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 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 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 Debra Pitre 0412 570 333

Try Alpha?

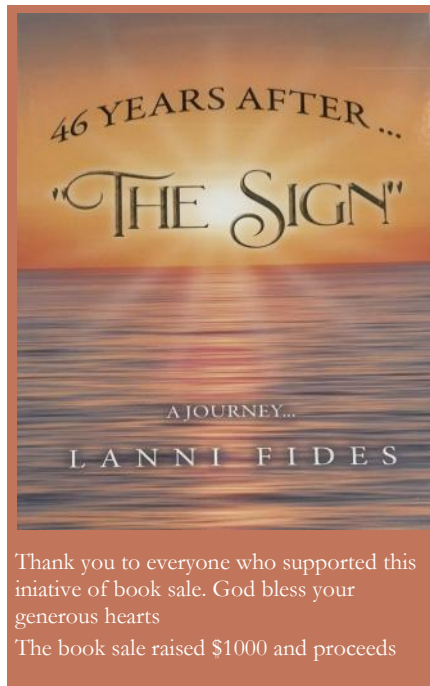
EXPLORE FAITH WITH YOUR ST JOHN XXIII COMMUNITY.

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



Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative of book sale. God bless your generous hearts

The book sale raised \$1000 and proceeds

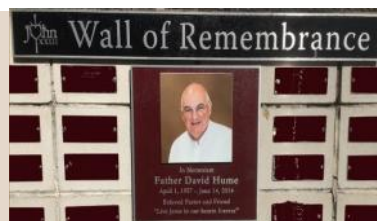


COLUMBARIUM

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

MEMORIAL WALL

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



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.

June Calendar

Mon	8	8:30am - Mass
Tues	9	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Novena prayer <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	10	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	11	<i>Saint Barnabas (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Fri	12	<i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (S)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Sat	13	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	14	7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

YAHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10 th July, Friday after mass	Morning tea
For all inquiries/confirmation/RSVPs please call or text Frank 0459 504 625 or Trevor 0407 150 399	



Don't miss the opportunity to experience Be The Witness at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre from September 10–13. Visit their site - <https://bethewitness.com.au/>

Bake Sale
7TH OF JUNE AT ALL SUNDAY MORNING MASSES
ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE YOUTH AND ASSISTING OUR WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS

IGNITE
S.J. 23 YOUNG ADULTS

TASTE OF SRI LANKA
SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2026
AFTER ALL MORNING MASSES
7:30AM | 9:00AM | 10:30AM

ENJOY THE DELICIOUS FLAVOURS OF SRI LANKA & SUPPORT IN RAISING FUNDS FOR ST JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC PARISH BUILDING PROJECT.

TASTE OF SRI LANKA

SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2026

Pre-Order Your Favourites

- Yellow Rice Pack \$18**
(Chicken, Onion Sambol, Beans, Egg plant moju, Boiled Eggs, Sprats badun)
- String Hopper Pack \$15**
(Coconut Sambol, White Curry)
- Milk Rice Pack \$15**
(Chicken Curry, Lunu miris- Chilli Sambol)
- Chicken Kottu \$15**
- Lamb Kottu \$15**
- Short eats pack \$10**
(Fish Pattie, Fish Roll, Fish Cutlets, Tri colour Veggie Sandwich
*includes Cheese, Butter Cake)

There'll be a variety of Sweets and other items available on the day for purchase.

Cash or Card payments can be made on the day

Cut-off date to pre-order is 17 June

Join us to savour tastes of Sri Lanka while raising funds for St. John XXIII church building project.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Trinity), is not a distant and unattainable experience. Instead, it is as near since it is perennially “broken” for us: This is my Body... This is my blood.”

In 1207, a Belgian Augustinian nun, Giuliana di Cornillon, who had just turned fifteen, had a vision of a full moon with a dark spot sullyng it. Contemporary experts interpreted it thus: the full moon symbolized the Church, the dark spot was the absence of a specific feast in honour of the Body of the Eucharistic Jesus. The following year, the same religious had an even clearer vision, but had to fight hard to get the feast instituted. She succeeded only at the diocesan level, when Robert de Thourette became bishop of Liège in 1247. In 1261, the former archdeacon of Liège, Jacques Pantelón, became Pope Urban IV. In 1264, impressed by a Eucharistic miracle that had taken place in Bolsena, near Orvieto in Italy where he was residing, he promulgated the bull *Transiturus* through which he instituted a new solemnity to be celebrated the Thursday after the Octave of Pentecost in honour of the Blessed Sacrament. Thomas Aquinas was given the task of composing the liturgical office. The last strophe of the hymns very famous hymn he wrote, *Sacris Solemniis*, which begins with the words *Panis angelicus* (Bread of angels), has often been set to different musical scores, apart from the rest of the hymn. Since Pope Urban IV died two months after having instituted the feast, the bull was never implemented, but Pope Clement V, the first Avignon Pope (1312), confirmed it later.

The now traditional procession of *Corpus Christi* was introduced by Pope John XXII in 1316. During his pastoral visit to Orvieto, Saint John Paul II said: “Even though the construction of this cathedral was not directly connected with the Solemnity of ‘*Corpus Christi*’, instituted by Pope Urban IV with the bull *Transiturus*, in 1264, nor with the miracle that took place in Bolsena the previous year, there is no doubt that the Eucharistic miracle is powerfully evidenced here due to the corporal of Bolsena for which the chapel was specifically built and which it now jealously guards. Since then, the city of Orvieto became known throughout the world due to that miraculous sign that reminds all of us of the merciful love of God who becomes the food and drink of salvation for humanity on its early pilgrimage. Because of the cult rendered to such a great mystery, your city preserves and nourishes the inextinguishable flame” (17 June 1990).

Anno A

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarrelled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.” (Jn. 6:51-58)

There’s bread and there is bread

The people did not forget and could not forget the Exodus experience and what God had done for them. The First Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on this. It can be said that life is guided by memory. “Remember how for forty years now the Lord, your God, directed all your journeying...” (Dt. 8:2). Along that journey, the people received “*manna*” in which they received the strength to endure the difficult journey through the “*vast and terrible wilderness with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers.*” (Dt. 8:15).

This is a salvific act on God’s part, a “providential” act, through which he could arrive where man could not. But the desert experience, described in such detail by the author, makes us think of the deserts of our own life, of the weariness, the difficulties, the barrenness and lack of meaning gripping our lives that make it impossible to move forward. Prisoners of our own complaining and nostalgia for the comforts of bondage when at least there was food!

And so, God is the One who gives the food capable of giving strength and vigour. There is “another food” that can revive the hope that is in you, that will help you on your way. As once in the desert, so too today, God gives the “Bread of angels”, such that no one has ever seen.

Bread from Heaven

Jesus gives himself to me, to everyone, in this Bread and makes us able to pursue our journey toward Heaven, toward eternity. “Whoever eats this bread will live forever”. In this Bread, Jesus makes me partake of his love, he clothes me with it, he nourishes me with it. He himself is both the banquet and the food. Jesus himself is Eucharist: “*This is my body... This is my blood...*”. In other words: This is my life, it is I. The Eucharist is an anticipation of what we will live in eternity together.

We have been made for great things

In giving us this Bread, Jesus makes us realize we have been made for great things, higher things. By looking toward the things above, which is consistent with the call to be “born from above” (see Jn. 3:3), Jesus reveals the perspective through which we are called to look on life – not stopping at earthly things, looking only horizontally (see Col. 3:1-4), but looking up, aiming high. The Eucharist is the Sacrament which catapults us toward the things of Heaven. It invites us to think higher, in a vertical dimension, according to God and not according to others (see Mk. 8:33). Toward that end, the Eucharist is offered to us as nourishment, strength, the bread from heaven so that “*whoever eats my flesh will live because of me, will live forever*” (see Jn. 6:51, 54). This, and only this, can deliver us from a flat and trivial life.

Not a ticket, but a logic

Viewing the Eucharist as a “ritual”, a kind of “weekly ticket” we need to pay, an obligation, leads us to fall back into the logic of the old covenant – “obeying” an external law that does not change life, and even less, does not save it. Instead, Jesus invites us to assume the logic that the Eucharist become a style of life, a new way of being, knowing how to receive him in our hands in order to offer the Eucharist in Him and to others.

Understanding the Eucharist, living the Eucharist, will lead us to the point of making this experience of love become a style of live, a “higher measure”, a way to love and to serve. Jesus said, “Do this in memory of me”. “Doing this memory” means “doing it like him, moving from “I” to “we”, as someone connected to others, who takes care of others after the example of Jesus who washes the feet of his disciples (see Jn. 13:1-11), or of the Good Samaritan (see Lk. 10:29-37).

The Eucharist gives us the experience of rediscovering the “Community”, and of “Encountering the community”. It is the laboratory of fraternity. This is why a Christian can never be content with personal prayer because there are times when the Community, Jesus’s friends, gather together to pray. This is the Eucharist. In this gathering, we listen to the Word and nourish ourselves on the Eucharist.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, with your instructions to follow the man with the pitcher of water, you make me understand that I am to follow in the footsteps of those who seriously live their baptism: help me imitate those who aim high in life.

Lord Jesus, by inviting me to the upper room, you ask me to abandon a flat way of life: help me be carried away with the desires you place in my heart.

Lord Jesus, by giving me bread and wine, Your Body and Your Blood, you teach me that life is either a gift, or it is not life: nourished by You, help me to make my life an offering pleasing to the Father.

Lord Jesus, in gathering your disciples around the table, you teach me that there is no Eucharist without the community, and there is no community without service. Help me to make my life a Eucharistic life.

(Prayer by Father Andrea Vena)

<https://www.naticanews.va/en/liturgical-holidays/solemnity-of-the-most-holy-body-and-blood-of-christ--corpus-chri.html>



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