

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

Today we leap from the end of chapter 11 in Matthew to the series of parables constituting most of chapter 13. Today's parable is of the sower (v.3-9) whose seeds fell on the path's edge, in patches of rock, among thorny weeds, and on fertile soil. It is followed by an interruption presented as taking place in private (v.10-23) even though Jesus does not leave the crowds until v.36. This interruption forms a seam in the narrative's fabric, signalling commentary on what has just been told, so the majority of scholarly opinions holds the interpretation (v.18-23) to have been generated by the early Church; Matthew includes it for his own purposes. In it the disciples query why Jesus teaches in parables, for it is clear that while the Jewish members of the early Church were impressed by his teaching and followed him, not all their compatriots responded the same way. The quoted passage from Isaiah evokes language from psalms criticising the pagans' idols that have ears that cannot hear, and eyes that cannot see. In the attached interpretation the greater number of mentioned obstacles (path, rock, and thorns) may give the wrong impression that it is harder for God's word to find fertile soil than this hopeful parable suggests, for any farmer whose field was more path and rock and thorn than well-tilled soil would be a farmer of extraordinarily poor ability, or one who had very poor land. No, it is wondrous that grain grows and produces a crop at all, and excepting catastrophe, this is certain to happen, even though some seed is wasted according to the nature of the field. A risk-averse and thrifty sower more carefully avoids areas doomed to fail, but this means that the fertile soil is not sown to the edge; the spendthrift and risky sower wastes some seed but reaches all the fertile soil so as to produce a greater crop.

The common interpretation of the parable considers each person as a recipient of a seed, which then fails or succeeds according to the individual. It may be true that the word is sometimes wasted on deaf ears, hard hearts and vexed minds, but this is a pessimistic reading that views each person simply as either blessed or damned. It may also perversely give comfort to those who believe themselves to be worthier than others. The parable seems to me to be more about the generosity of God, who liberally sows the word, and who is convinced, according to the first reading (Isa 55:10-11), that the word from the mouth of God will achieve what it was sent out to do. What part then do people themselves play? Is it not possible also to understand the parable's field to be not just the world, but also each person who receives the word? The seeds sown may not take root and transform themselves in all parts of the person's life, but some do take root and grow in each recipient. Those with hearts and minds cultivated to receive it may be more aware of its work and rejoice in it, not as the fruit of their own labour but for the simple joy and wonder of it. Is it not also possible that if each person tends to the crop the word produces within them, then they may more consciously cultivate those parts revealed to be hard or shallow or distracted? Enjoying the crop while also aware of the shortcomings, the wiser farmer then attends to softening edges, picking out rocks, and uprooting thorns so as to make the heart as receptive and fertile as possible.

*cordially invites you for*  
**THE LAYING OF THE  
FOUNDATION STONE**  
— OF THE —  
**NEW PARISH HALL AND OFFICES**

**on Sunday 19th July 2026**  
*after the 10:30 AM mass.*

**160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens NSW**

The foundation stone will be laid by our bishop  
**Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen**  
OFM conv DD STL.

*Your presence is highly valued  
and greatly appreciated.*

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

### Exposition + Benediction

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> 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><br>5:15 - 5:45pm <i>before the</i><br><i>Vigil Mass or upon request</i> |

### Sacraments

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun</b> | 12pm Baptism <i>by appointment</i> |
|------------|------------------------------------|

### Prayers

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

### Special Blessings

|                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Blessing during masses</b> |                       |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sun</b>     | Birthday celebrants   |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> 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

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

### First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14

**R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **R.**

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat, They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

### Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

### Gospel Acclamation

GA

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him 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

Tristan Sampang

#### Remembrances:

#### Death Anniversary

Rosa Marina Miscuso

#### 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, Josie Lewis, Emma Matoza, Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly, Jerwin McCarron, Ksenija Bosnic, Zena Samar, Charlie Busuttill, Elsie Knapp, Perla Magculang, Peter McArdle, Melissa Nava, Imelda Vinluan, Cindy Dadivas, 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, Florentina Elisura, Bev Lewis, Mr Thomas, Mary Phillips, Rosie Carbonel, Renado Naldo, Cathie Christie, Hilary Regan, Maria Romeo, Jonathan Gemin, Victor Pons, Joshua McCarroll, Zoey Illic, Carlo Dominic, Manuel Sarris, Troy James, Margaret Harrison, Jude Newnes, Ryan Dixon, Barbara Thompson, Babies with Blister disease

#### Thanksgiving

Bernadette Virwani

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

### Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



Grow  
with  
Christ

**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](mailto: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**



Be part of our Hall Project for only \$100 per stone laid. Let us begin the foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:9  
*For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building*

### Dear parishioners and friends,

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 congratulate the Secure Building Solutions for winning the bid. (SBS)**

We are finally getting ready to begin the actual construction, and we hope to finish the whole project in 8 months' time (latest by 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

As we begin this project, we request every parishioner to be part of this project and donate a foundation stone. **One stone will cost \$100.** Let's begin and let's complete. For donations please see the bank details:

- ★ 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.

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](mailto:johnirudayaraj@mcgrath.com.au)  
McGrath Northwest

**McGrath**



Where the journey begins

For children aged 6 weeks to 6 years

Early Learning & Montessori Centre



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)

## Hall Project Donations To Date

2026FY

**\$205,637**

July

**\$2,329**

**\$207,966**



## 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

✉ [chukwu@john23rd.org.au](mailto:chukwu@john23rd.org.au)

### STAFF

#### Secretary: Tanya Gatt

✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

#### Finance: Renuka Soosaipillai

✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)

#### Sacramental Coordinator:

Helen Zammit

✉ [sacramental@john23rd.org.au](mailto:sacramental@john23rd.org.au)

### OTHER CONTACTS

#### Parish Council:

John McCabe

✉ [johnmccabe5@gmail.com](mailto:johnmccabe5@gmail.com)

#### Maintenance issues:

David Gorkic

✉ [maintenance@john23rd.org.au](mailto:maintenance@john23rd.org.au)

#### Columbarium queries:

✉ [columbarium@john23rd.org.au](mailto:columbarium@john23rd.org.au)

John McCabe

Mei Velasco

Julian Martin

Suni Fernando

Helen Festejo

Ajith Lobo

Rebecca Reynolds



## OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

#### Ambrose Early Learning

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:celstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

#### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Attila Lendvai

☎ (02) 8664 7100

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au)

#### St John XXIII Catholic College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Frank Chiment

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ [stjohn23stanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stjohn23stanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohn23stanhope.catholic.edu.au)

## Praying together

*When we 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

|     | 7         | 14        | 21        | 28           |           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Jul | Tambolero | Ring      | Tina B    | Lee          |           |
| Aug | 4         | 11        | 18        | 25           |           |
|     | Jacob     | Meena B   | Sebastian | Pangilinan E |           |
| Sep | 1         | 8         | 15        | 22           | 29        |
|     | Fernandes | Jakob B   | Tangunan  | Erasmus      | Jayakoddy |
| Oct | 6         | 13        | 20        | 27           |           |
|     | Erasmus   | Available | Available | Available    |           |

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

Rosary statue contacts Techie Sarlabus [techie.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:techie.sarlabus@gmail.com) or

Melva Paguinto [emcipi85@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emcipi85@yahoo.com.au)



## Diocesan News

### Adult Confirmations 2026

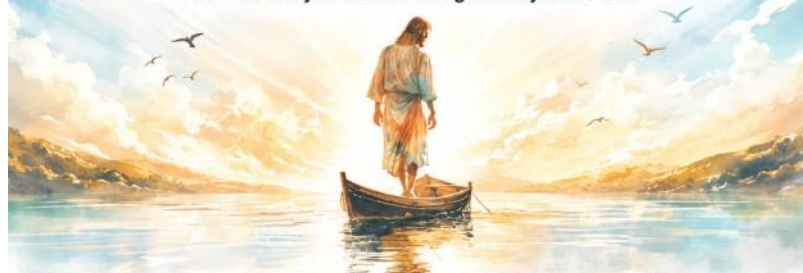
The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday 29th August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day. 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.

## SPECIAL EOFY / EARLY BIRD GROUP OFFER

# Be The Witness

A powerful musical encounter  
with the story of Jesus through the eyes of Peter



10–13 September 2026

## Riverside Theatres Parramatta



Group  
Bookings  
10+



Concessions  
Available



Limited  
Seats

Invite your parish, ministry, family and friends



Scan for  
Group Bookings



[www.bethewitness.com.au](http://www.bethewitness.com.au)



With the support and  
encouragement of  
Bishop Vincent Long



Presented by  
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,  
Blacktown

## Diocesan News



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

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.



### 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 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 Heart Seniors Group

Contact either of the following:

Frank Coleiro - 0459 504625

Trevor Coutinho - 0407 150399



**join the good works**  
Please contact for more info  
Debra Pitre 0412 570333

## 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)



### Junior Server Training

We warmly invite all children who have said "YES" to God's call to serve as Junior Servers during Mass to attend a training session conducted by the Liturgy Team.

**Date: Saturday, 25 July**

**Time: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

This training is open to anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming a Junior Server or would like to join this special ministry. It is an important step in preparing to serve at Mass with reverence and confidence.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

We look forward to welcoming you!

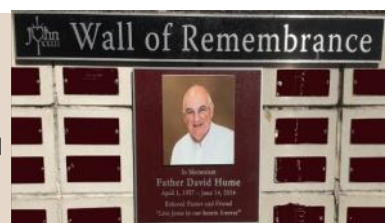


## COLUMBARIUM

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!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Warm Up This Winter with a Delicious Bowl of Soup!



With the winter chills, come and warm yourself with a delicious, homemade bowl of soup lovingly prepared by our parish community. Share in the warmth of good food, great company, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

1 August - Saturday after the Vigil Mass  
2 August - Sunday after the morning masses

Hosted by our BLAZE Youth Group

8 August - Saturday after the Vigil Mass  
9 August - Sunday after the morning masses

Hosted by Vinnies

### 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.

## July Calendar

|       |    |                                                                                       |
|-------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon   | 13 | 8:30am - Mass                                                                         |
| Tues  | 14 | 9:15am - Mass<br>7:00pm - Rosary   novena prayer<br><i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i> |
| Wed   | 15 | <i>Saint Bonaventure (M)</i><br>9:15am - Mass<br>8:00pm - Holy Hour                   |
| Thurs | 16 | 9:15am - Mass                                                                         |
| Fri   | 17 | 9:15am - Mass                                                                         |
| Sat   | 18 | 9:15am - Mass<br>6:00pm - Mass                                                        |
| Sun   | 19 | 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am masses<br>6:00pm - Mass                                         |

## Blaze Term 3 Dates

|                 |              |                |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
|                 |              | 24<br>July     |
| 7<br>August     | 21<br>August | 4<br>September |
| 16<br>September |              |                |

## FLAVOURS OF india

Join us for our 2nd Indian Food Fiesta — a delicious fundraiser for our Church Hall and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of our parish community.

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**\*Additional Indian Delicacies Available**

A variety of freshly prepared Indian dishes will also be available for purchase:  
**Saturday, 25 July – after 6pm mass**  
**Sunday, 26 July – after all morning masses**

Stay after Mass, enjoy some delicious food, and spend time in fellowship as we come together as one parish family.

### Flavours of India – Parish Fundraiser

*The Parish Indian Community warmly invites you to Flavours of India, a weekend of delicious homemade Indian food and community spirit.*

*Join us after the 6:00 PM Mass on Saturday, 25 July, and after all morning Masses on Sunday, 26 July. Enjoy authentic Indian favourites while supporting our parish, with 100% of proceeds going towards the construction of our new parish hall.*

*Bring your family and friends—we look forward to sharing a wonderful meal with you!*

## WHAT IS A PARABLE

The word parable comes from the Greek and means comparison, analogy or juxtaposition. A parable is a type of narrative with an emotive or moral significance which initiates comparison. They are usually short stories, memorable through an image – often drawn from nature or daily life in the time of Jesus – that convey profound spiritual truths.

When Jesus began teaching in parables he was not telling stories in an entirely new way.

*In Greece and Rome, parables were employed by rhetoricians, politicians and philosophers. Perhaps the most illustrious among those who made use of them were Socrates and Aristotle. An interesting question is to what extent the classical parables are like those of the Bible. In Israel, parables were uttered by prophets and wise women and men. They appear even in the oldest books of the Old Testament.*

<http://www.rec.bne.catholic.edu.au/Pages/Theological-Background-Details.aspx?tbid=59>

When Solomon built the first permanent Temple in Jerusalem (approx. 1000 BC), it became known as the 'house of God', the central place of worship of God. This new temple functioned as the centre of both religious and political power. Israelites would still attend their local synagogue for worship and prayer but the Temple, through its legal authority and hierarchy of Priests, high Priests and Sanhedrin, became a place of religious and financial power. It was the place where the liturgy of Israel would be concentrated, the place where the priesthood of Israel was established. Three annual festivals; Shavuot (Pentecost), Pesach (Passover) and Sukkot (Tabernacle) obliged Israelite men to attend the Temple so the Temple at Jerusalem was an important part of the people's religious life. Many of the psalms, like Psalm 24, refer to going up to the Temple (the 'holy place' v. 3).

Early translations of the Hebrew Bible chose the word parable to translate the Hebrew word mashal (Porton, 2006, p. 206). Mashal can mean proverb, simile, story or riddle. Parables are also contained in Rabbinic texts (Jewish stories compiled after Jesus' time but set earlier). These stories often began "I will tell you a mashal (parable)". What is particular to this genre of story is that there is no one meaning that can be drawn from each parable. We see this when we read Jesus' parables and frequently begin with "The kingdom of heaven is like...". We instantly recognise that there is no one way to imagine or understand the Kingdom. This is a part of the power of the parable. It invites the listener to consider and discern; to think in new ways. Even the more pointed parables like the Good Samaritan have more than one conclusion to be drawn.

More importantly, parables require the reader/listener to respond. Usually based on an A is a B style metaphor, (the Kingdom of God is a \*\*\*) parables demand attention. Unable to be understood literally, they tease or challenge the brain as it tries to ascertain what the user is meaning. Even when worded as similes (the kingdom of God is like a \*\*\*) parables still demand thought and consideration.

Parables use everyday events, actions and objects taken from the user's life to make their point. In doing so, we catch not only a glimpse of the world from which they came but also gain a sense of

*...how the divine light shines through in the things of this world and the realities of our everyday life...*

*(Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), Jesus of Nazareth, trans. Adrian J. Walker (New York: Doubleday, 2007), p. 192)*

### Parables in context

Key to understanding any parable is context. The parables, to our contemporary more urban ways of being, hold little that we easily relate to. There are no comparisons using air travel, failed phone chargers, traffic lights or investing in the stock market. They reference cultural and social context of a different time and place. Then there is the simple fact that parables were oral stories, and as readers today, we don't have access to the tone of the speaker or those engaged, the atmosphere, what is going on around the story or other contextual factors. We have only the parable recorded in the Bible and limited details of context provided, aided by our own explorations. As we read them, we begin by learning of what life was like in Jesus' time. Parables are stories about people and their lives, told:

*in a way that people from every age and culture have seen in their own lives or personally experienced with its hopes and challenges replayed in these short vignettes. There is little Scripture quoted, yet the underlying emphasis is on the summons that God issues to each one to embrace the standards of the Kingdom.*

<http://www.rec.bne.catholic.edu.au/Pages/Theological-Background-Details.aspx?tbid=59>

This world of clear social hierarchy, subsistence farming and Roman rule, is the first step towards their understanding.

The next step is to gain a sense of how the telling of the parables of Jesus is influenced by the writer of each Gospel – their audience, concerns and community for whom they were writing.

An introduction to the Parables prepared by the Archdiocese of Brisbane

The final step is to be familiar with the particular literary form of the different types of parables and its features. Jesus' parables have three significant traits:

1. They seem simple enough for anyone to understand. The use of known examples and specific images help make spiritual realities accessible.
2. On the other hand, parables also have a mysterious element, a deeper meaning that only becomes clear with deeper consideration.
3. The parables both conceal and reveal the Kingdom in all its mystery if the hearer is open:

*...they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.' Mark 4:12*

### Types of Parables

There are many ways to classify the types of parables but consistently three broad headings emerge:

1. The parable:
  - Proper parables in the Gospels
  - Usually include "The Kingdom of God is like..."
  - Tells a story about a one off, fictitious yet believable event
  - Told in the 'once upon a time', past tense style
2. Similitude:
  - A concise form of parable They are called similitudes because they reflect the everyday experiences and regular stories
  - They are called similitudes because they reflect the everyday experiences and regular stories
  - Usually in present tense & short. An example is The lost Coin – who wouldn't rejoice at finding a lost coin!
3. Exemplary stories:
  - Present an implied comparison
  - Give an example to illustrate a general principle
  - They compare an event with a moral or religious ethic
  - There are only 4 in the synoptic Gospels

### The Parables of Jesus

The following table shows the parables in the Gospels and notes where there are similar versions across Gospels:

| PARABLE                                | Matthew       | Mark          | Luke          |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| The Sower                              | Matt 13:3-23  | Mark 4:1-20   | Luke 8:5-15   |
| The Weeds amongst the Wheat            | Matt 13:24-30 |               |               |
| The Mustard Seed                       | Matt 13:31-32 | Mark 4:30-32  | Luke 13:18-19 |
| The Leaven                             | Matt 13:33    |               | Luke 13:20-21 |
| The Hidden Treasure                    | Matt 13:44    |               |               |
| Parable of the Pearl                   | Matt 13:45-46 |               |               |
| Drawing in the Net                     | Matt 13:47-50 |               |               |
| The Lost Sheep                         | Matt 18:12-14 |               | Luke 15:3-7   |
| Unmerciful Servant                     | Matt 18:23-35 |               |               |
| Laborers in the Vineyard               | Matt 20:1-16  |               |               |
| The Two Sons                           | Matt 21:28-31 |               |               |
| The Wicked Husbandman                  | Matt 21:33-43 | Mark 12:1-11  | Luke 20:9-18  |
| Marriage of the King's Son/The Banquet | Matt 22:1-14  |               | Luke 15:15-24 |
| The Ten Virgins                        | Matt 25:1-12  |               |               |
| The Talents                            | Matt 25:14-30 |               | Luke 19:11-27 |
| Seed Growing Secretly                  |               | Mark 4:26-29  |               |
| The Two Debtors                        |               |               | Luke 7:41-47  |
| The Good Samaritan                     |               |               | Luke 10:30-37 |
| The Rich Fool                          |               |               | Luke 12:16-21 |
| The Faithful Servant                   | Matt 24:42    | Mark 13:33-37 | Luke 12:35-48 |
| Lost Money                             |               |               | Luke 15:8-10  |
| The Prodigal Son                       |               |               | Luke 15:11-32 |
| The Unjust Steward                     |               |               | Luke 16:1-8   |
| The Rich Man and the Beggar Lazarus    |               |               | Luke 16:19-31 |

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