

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

In today's gospel episode, Matthew 14:13-21, having heard of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus withdraws to a lonely place by himself – but the Jerusalem Bible used in our current Lectionary renders that final element as “where they could be by themselves”, indicating his disciples. The crowds anticipate his movement and reach the place ahead of him, but Jesus is moved to compassion on seeing them. Earlier, in 9:36, he had similarly been moved to compassion, the crowd seeming to him to be “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”, prompting him to commission the twelve and send them out as labourers in the harvest; teaching of the twelve in training for the mission is attached, and it is followed by the first mention of John the Baptist being in prison (11:2). This time, following the news of John's death and being moved to compassion again by sight of the crowd, Jesus heals their sick. As evening falls the disciples appear, suggesting he dismiss the crowds to find their own food; there then unfolds the first of Matthew's two accounts of feeding multitudes, usually referred to as the multiplication of loaves and fishes. Jesus being moved to compassion also precedes the second account of a feeding (15:32-39). These narrative links enable the formation of a single, integrated account: Jesus is moved to compassion, then heals, teaches and feeds. Ancient authors and preachers from at least the time of Origen noticed this. Origen interprets the feeding accounts as primarily being about Jesus teaching, opening the Scriptures (the Law) in a new and satisfying way; to be taught by Jesus is to be fed on the Word of God (a point John's gospel makes emphatically).

Ancient homilists dealing with these accounts also stressed the hands, observing that Jesus breaks the loaves but gives them to the disciples to give to the crowds, for how could one alone distribute to so many? Those preachers deduced that the bread multiplied in the disciples' hands (including the hands of Judas Iscariot!). In Origen's interpretation, the disciples were being trained and commissioned by Jesus to teach others. This influenced a particular theology of ministry: the teaching or feeding movement begins with Jesus, unfolds in the hands of the apostles, and continues through the ordained ministry both in teaching or preaching and in presiding at the Eucharist.

Christ's mission is entrusted to the whole Church, composed of all its members. Since the Eucharist is the summit and source, not the be-all and end-all, of Christian life, it is the high point of our lives as the sacramental celebration of Christ's self-offering and our self-giving in return, and also the nourishment that provides us the strength to go forth and do the same in our daily lives. The feeding accounts depict the Church, receiving from Christ and with him being moved by compassion to teach the shepherdless, to heal the broken, and to feed the hungry.

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 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>) 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



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/>



Dear Parishioners and friends,

As we begin the construction of our long-awaited parish hall and offices, our pathway from the main school and parking to the church will remain closed all the time from the 10th August until the construction is finished.

Our left side of the Church where the present deck is situated, this will be also locked. Those who will park in the school and parish parking area must use the pathway beside the main road to come to the church.

Few more steps of walking will strengthen our muscle power!

Sorry for the inconvenience.

Fr Jolly

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

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. **R.**

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. **R.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:35, 37-39

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. 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

William Pinheiro, Antonio Cortez, Jozo Nujic

Remembrances:

Death Anniversary

Alfredo Cruz, Maligaya Morales, Felicisino Esteban

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, Natasha Leita, Bev Osborn, Myrna Manalili, Dudley Francis, Manuel Sarris, Troy James, Margaret Harrison, Jude Newnes, 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, Christina Properzi, Louise Smith, Peter McArdle, Melissa Nava, Ryan Dixon, Fausto Bayot, Carlo Bueno, Helen West, Elizabeth Candame, Carlo Dominic Marcelino Matteazi, Perla Magculang, Jonathan Gemin, Barbara Thompson, Victor Pons, Joshua McCarroll, Zoey Illic, Gerald Simbulan, Ksenija Bosnic, Elizabeth Langley, Cindy Dadiyas, Jerwin McCarron, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Elsie Knapp, Josie Lewis, Emma Matoza, Zena Samar, Lenka Olivier Talija, Marilyn Nalapo, Charlie Busuttill, Imelda Vinluan, Babies with Blister disease, Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly

Thanksgiving

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

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

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 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 XX111, Patron of our parish, **Pray for us**
 St. Vincent Ferrer, Patron of all builders, **Pray for us**

How to contribute

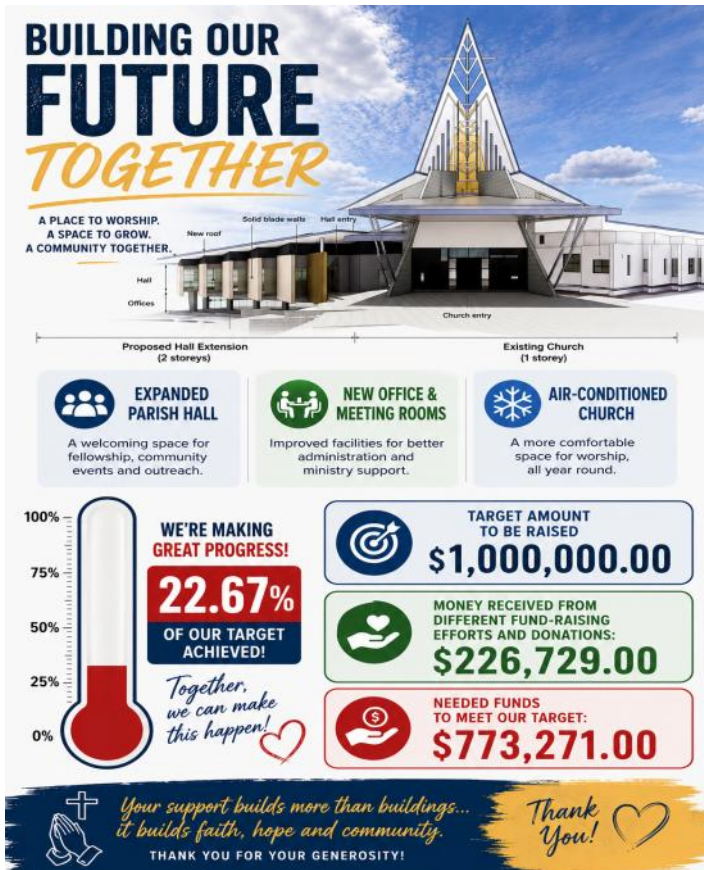
Be part of that good news. Let us be generous, cheerful and rejoice in the goodness of the Lord. For your donations:

- ★ Dedicated "Tap & go" machines at both entrances
- ★ 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 QR Code

Thank you for your support.

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

GOOD NEWS



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

McGrath



Flavours of India Fundraiser - Thank You!

The Indian Parish Community would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our entire parish family for the wonderful response to our food fundraiser over the weekend.

By the Grace of God and your immense generosity, we raised \$10,500 from the food sales across all weekend services! Thank you to everyone who stopped by and supported us. Your presence, love, and generosity made this event an incredible success!

Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- Everyone who prepared and packed the sumptuous food;
- The talented cooks who prepared the wonderful variety of delicious dishes; and
- Our generous parishioners who supported the event by purchasing and enjoying the delicious fare.

Again, a huge thanks and we are truly grateful to everyone who contributed in any way.



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

✉ chukwu@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

✉ 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

🌐 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

	4	11	18	25	
Aug	Jacob	Meena B	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	
Sep	1	8	15	22	29
	Fernandes	Jakob B	Tangunan	Erasmus	Jayakoddy
Oct	6	13	20	27	
	Erasmus	Sebastian	Shalini	Ring	
Nov	3	10	17	24	
	Available	Available	Available	Available	

"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

Adult Confirmations 2026

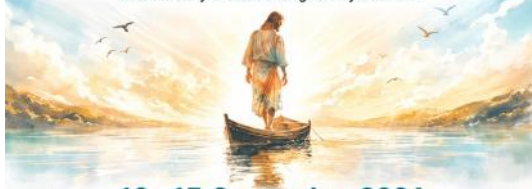
The Office for Worship will host a Catechesis and Formation Day for those candidates (16+) interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This will be on Saturday 29th August, 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre in Blacktown. A light lunch will be provided on the day.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

SPECIAL EOY / 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



With the support and
encouragement of
Bishop Vincent Long



Presented by
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,
Blacktown

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA GROUP
OF ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

DINNER FOR A CAUSE

A TRIBUTE TO ALL FATHERS

18. SEPT. FRIDAY

6:30PM to 11:30PM

2 COURSE PLATED DINNER. DRINK. MUSIC @

THE HILLS LODGE

1 Salisbury Rd Cnr, Windsor Rd,
Castle Hill, NSW 2154

TICKET \$125

ONLY 100 TICKETS SOLD
SURPRISE RAFFLE PRIZES

PROCEEDS GO TO
ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

FOR MORE INFORMATION

0427607047 (MARCY); 0413725224 (MELVA)

Celebrate Fathers with Us – A Dinner for a Cause!

This September, join the Mother of Perpetual Help Novena Group of our Parish as we honour and celebrate all fathers with a special event, “A Tribute to All Fathers”, on 18 September 2026.

Enjoy a delightful evening with your loved ones, featuring a two-course plated dinner with drinks and live music to set the mood. Plus, there's an exciting surprise raffle draw where all attendees will have the chance to win!

The event will take place at The Hills Lodge, Castle Hill with limited seating for only 100 guests – so don't miss out!

Let's come together as a community to create cherished memories while supporting a meaningful cause. All proceeds will benefit our beloved St. John 23rd Parish.

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.

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 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*

7 AUG	21 AUG	4 SEP
16 SEP		

Young at Hearts Seniors Group

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

Vinnies
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



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.

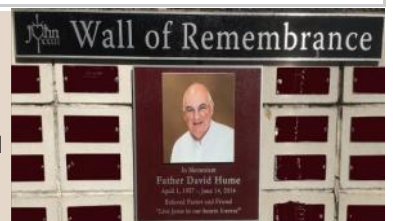


COLUMBARIUM

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



Community Events

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!



August Calendar

Mon	3	<i>Saint Dominic (M)</i> 8:30am - Mass
Tues	4	<i>Saint John Vianney (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary prayer 7:30pm - Novena Mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	5	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	6	<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord (F)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Fri	7	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass <i>Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>
Sat	8	<i>Saint Mary of the Cross (S)</i> 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass 7:00pm - <i>Vinnie's Soup Night</i>
Sun	9	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am masses <i>Vinnie's Soup Fundraiser</i> 6:00pm - Mass

UPCOMING COMMUNITY 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 Vinnies Group. Share in the warmth of good food, great company, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

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



Sate anyone?

It's back. Join us for a day of delicious Indonesian sate (satay) dish with other savory and sweets.

30 August - Satay and others after the morning masses Indonesia Community



Building Our Community Together

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

THINGS THAT CATHOLICS NEED TO KNOW

What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love Him in return. In comparison to the love of Jesus, everything else is secondary. And, without the love of Jesus, everything is useless.” – Pope Saint John Paul II The most extraordinary and profound truth is that God’s love for you is beyond anything that you can imagine. As a Catholic Christian, it is essential that you accept and understand this wonderful truth. God loves you regardless of your past or your sins. Jesus died to save all of us from sin and spiritual death; He loves you so very much that if you were the only person in need of salvation, He would lay down His life just for you. *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”* (John 15:13).

Without accepting God’s invitation to have a deep and loving relationship with Him, nothing else that you do will make much sense. First and foremost, you are loved, chosen, and called into communion with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All that you become depends upon your willingness to accept God’s grace, to enter into a love relationship with Him, and to be transformed into a more faith filled, knowledgeable, cherished, intimate, and loving member of the body of Christ, the Church.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

The Ten Commandments are fulfilled in Jesus’ Great Commandment: “You shall love...God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength....You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30-31)

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

Before his death on the cross, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (John 13:34).

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – (HOLY COMMUNION)

1. The bread and wine of the Eucharist becomes the true transubstantiated body and blood of Christ. It is not a mere symbol.
2. The Eucharist is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ Jesus.
3. The reception of Holy Communion is the center of Catholic Faith.
4. Communion is by definition to be in union with God and with His Church, to be one in faith.
5. To receive Communion, a person must be a practicing Catholic in the state of grace.
6. Only an ordained Catholic priest, in the person of Jesus Christ, the High Priest, can transform bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

THE SIX TRUTHS

To be known and believed by all.

1. There is one God, who created, who preserves and governs all things.
2. God is a just Judge, who rewards the good and punishes the wicked.

3. In God there are three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
4. The Second Person, Jesus Christ, became man and died on the cross to save us.
5. The soul of man is immortal.
6. Grace is necessary for salvation.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

1. I am the Lord thy God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me. Thou shalt not make to yourself a graven thing, not the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth. Thou shalt not adore them nor serve them.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
3. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath – day.
4. Honor thy father and thy mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s goods.

THE EIGHT BEATITUDES

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE SIX PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

1. To attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of obligation.
2. To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
3. To confess at least once a year.
4. To receive the Most Blessed Sacrament during the Easter time.
5. To contribute to the support of our pastors.
6. Matrimony is a Sacrament between one Man and one Woman. It provides grace to the couple and the Church helps prepare couples for the Sacrament. Please see Sacraments and Matrimony on our website.

THE SIX HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

1. *January 1 – Mary, Mother of God.
2. Ascension – 40 days after Easter
3. *August 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

4. *November 1 – The feast of All-Saints.
 5. December 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin.
 6. December 25 – Christmas
- *If on a Monday or Saturday – No Obligation in the USA

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Holy Eucharist
4. Penance
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Holy Order.

THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES

Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance

THE THREE EMINENT GOOD WORKS or SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Prayer, Fasting, Alms-giving

THE THREE EVANGELICAL COUNSELS.

(Vows taken by most religious in order to more perfectly serve the Church)

Voluntary Poverty, Perpetual Chastity, Obedience

THE CHIEF CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty
3. To clothe the naked
4. To ransom the captive
5. To harbor the harborless
6. To visit the sick
7. To bury the dead

THE CHIEF SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. To admonish the sinners
2. To instruct the ignorant
3. To counsel the doubtful
4. To comfort the sorrowful
5. To bear wrongs patiently
6. To forgive injuries
7. To pray for the living and the dead

THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord

THE TWELVE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, benignity, Goodness, Long-Suffering, Mildness, Faith, Modesty, Continence, Chastity

Love the Fight Not the Fall: Sometimes we may feel overwhelmed. Slowly but surely, we may tire of our defects and their effects. The constant, on-going battle to follow Christ may slowly wear us down. The path to perfection in the virtues is surely full of rewards, but it has its share of wear-and-tear. But it does not matter if we fall a thousand times, as long as we love the fight and not the fall. It therefore makes no sense to despair, especially when we fight with Christ on our side. The effort of a prolonged battle can please Christ more than an easy and comfortable victory. Christ reminds us: He will suffer greatly, be rejected and killed, and everyone who wants to be his disciple must take up his cross and follow him.

– Father Paul Hubert, LC

From The Catechism of the Catholic Church

1854 Sins are rightly evaluated according to their gravity. The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in Scripture, became part of the tradition of the Church. It is corroborated by human experience.

1855 Mortal sin destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God’s law; it turns man away from God, who is his ultimate end and his beatitude, by preferring an inferior good to him. Venial sin allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it.

1856 Mortal sin, by attacking the vital principle within us – that is, charity – necessitates a new initiative of God’s mercy and a conversion of heart which is normally accomplished within the setting of the sacrament of reconciliation.

1857 For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must together be met: “Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent.”¹³¹

BAPTISMAL VOWS

“I renounce Satan. I renounce all his works. I renounce all his pomps.”

By these words, we renounce all suggestions and snares of the evil one, all deliberate sins, all the follies and vanities of worldly-minded men and women.

THE SEVEN CAPITAL SINS AND THEIR OPPOSING VIRTUES

1. Pride – Humility
2. Covetousness – Liberality
3. Lust – Chastity
4. Anger – Meekness
5. Gluttony – Temperance
6. Envy – Brotherly Love
7. Sloth – Diligence

THE FOUR CONDITIONS FOR FORGIVENESS OF SIN

On the part of the Penitent: Contrition, Confession, Satisfaction. On the part of the Confessor: Absolution

THE SIX SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Presumption of God’s mercy, Despair, Resisting the known truth, Envy at another’s spiritual good, Obstinacy in sin, Final Impenitence

THE NINE WAYS OF BEING AN ACCESSORY TO ANOTHER’S SINS

1. By Counsel
2. By Command
3. By Consent
4. By Provocation
5. By Praise or Flattery
6. By Concealment
7. By Taking Part in the sin
8. By Silence
9. By Defending the evil

<https://sjncc.org/things-every-catholic-should-know/>

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