

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

From last Sunday's reading at the end of chapter 10 we have leapt to the end of the next. The prayer of Jesus that opens today's gospel reading begins like many biblical prayers, but it has much in common with Daniel 2:23. Daniel's Aramaic text has a two verb construction, usually translated as give thanks and praise, but Matthew's account has only one verb, the same as the Septuagint's translation for Daniel's first verb, but the Greek version translates variously to confess, profess and praise. Daniel's prayer (2:20-23) is in the first part of the first story of king Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, but this section with Daniel's prayer is not employed anywhere in our Lectionary although it might better accompany today's gospel reading than Zechariah 9:9-10, the source for Palm Sunday's image of the humble king riding a donkey. Daniel's context is important: Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by incomprehensible dreams, but he set an impossible task for his "wise men" (astrologers, magicians, sorcerers, etc.); they were both to tell him his dream and explain it without him telling them what he had dreamed. They could not do so, and they told him "no man" could, so he ordered their execution. Daniel, the wise Hebrew youth and interpreter of dreams, and his three friends (famous for their hymn of praise while in the furnace) were caught up by this edict. They sought God's mercy in prayer; the mystery was revealed to Daniel, who cries out: "Blessed be the name of God forever, for wisdom and majesty are his ... he confers wisdom on the wise and knowledge on the discerning, revealing deep and hidden things ... to you, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise for giving me wisdom and understanding, and making known to me what we asked..." This saved Daniel, his friends, and all the witless men.

Jesus' prayer draws from Daniel's text. Its place in Matthew is of interest, for it follows directly after the lament over Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, which had not repented even after the miracles worked in them, unlike Nebuchadnezzar, who repented at each turn and whose last words in Daniel are in praise to God. Matthew presents Jesus as another but greater Daniel; to him is revealed a greater mystery, made clear in the next verse (v.27): the mutual and reciprocal knowing of the Father and Son is unique, so Jesus knows God the Father's hidden mysteries, and in him God knows by direct experience humanity's trials. God's response is mercy. The invitation that follows (v.28-30), "Come to me..." is unique to Matthew. It is related to Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 51:23-30, the second

part of the poem to Wisdom in that book's appendix which incorporates an element from Jeremiah 6:16 where the reward for returning to the true way of the covenant is finding rest for your souls. Jesus is the true way; to come to him is to walk in the way of true wisdom, understanding and surrendering oneself to God's rule, submitting to the gentle yoke of God's law of love and mercy. The two Sabbath day stories that immediately follow (Matt 12:1-14, but which are not in our Sunday Lectionary), the picking of grain and the healing of a man's withered hand, are directly linked to today's pericope. In them Jesus challenges the Pharisees' strict but unmerciful interpretation of the Sabbath law of rest. He reminds them of Hosea 6:6, "I want mercy, not sacrifice". Thus today's passage is a critical point in Matthew, for when application of its merciful teaching violates the Pharisees' understanding of the Sabbath law of rest, they begin to plot to destroy Jesus. The question for our communities is: Do we embody the teachings of Jesus, who himself embodies the mercy of God? If not, then why should anyone come and abide with us in whom we say the Spirit of God and of Christ has made a home (cf. Rom 8:9)?

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 *until 10.30am*
5:15 - 5:45pm *before the Vigil Mass or upon request*

Sacraments

Sun 12pm Baptism *by appointment*

Prayers

Tue	7:00pm Rosary and novena prayers (<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/>

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

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading *Zechariah 9:9-10*

See how humbly your king comes to you!

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14*

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. **R.**

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.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **R.**

The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**

Second Reading *Romans 8:9, 11-1*

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *cf Matthew 11:25*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. 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:

Natividad Reyes

Death Anniversary

Joel Guilas

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 Dadvivas, Louise Smith, Marcelino Matteazi, Elizabeth Langley, Marilyn Nalapo, Lenka Olivier Talija, Christina Properzi, Gerald Simbulan, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Dudley Francis, Isagani Ocampo, Raymond Lanzona, Lucas Colleta, Rosanna John Pellissery, Brendan Prideaux, 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

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

Gospel *Matthew 11:25-30*

I am gentle and humble of heart.

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.



*Come to me and
I will give you rest*

FIRST COLLECTION supports the priests and deacons of the Diocese.
SECOND COLLECTION provides for the running costs of our church, ministry expenses.
 We have a Planned Giving Program. We encourage parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions as alternative to an envelope system via the following methods:

- direct debit arrangements to your nominated bank account or credit card
- Regular bank transfers set up at your end to the parish bank account
 Account name - Glenwood Stanhope Gardens St John 23rd Parish
 BSB - 067 950 A/C - 100002469 Reference: PG (your initial and family name)
- Donating through cash or using the "Tap & go" machines which are available by the entrances.

Please contact the parish office to update us with your preferred giving option. Either by phoning 02 88835981 or emailing accounts@john23rd.org.au.



Support can be provided via the registration forms are available at the church foyer or from the website or scan the QR Code

HALL PROJECT

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for your many blessings to our parish and to each of us.

We pray for your guidance and wisdom as we prepare ourselves to begin the construction. May your Holy spirit be with all our Engineers, architects, builders and all involved in this project. Protect them from harm and grant them skill and diligence. May this hall be a place of unity, fellowship and faith formation for our community, a space where we can grow in faith and serve others. Bless all our sponsors, donors and each of us who contribute in our own humble ways and means. Whatever we do, may we do it for your glory.

- St. Joseph, the patron of families and workers, **Pray for us**
- St. John XX111, 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 28th 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
 McGrath Northwest



Contributions to date FY2026



Where the journey begins

For children aged 6 weeks to 6 years



EXPLORE OUR LEARNING PLACES
 ☎ (02) 8610 3775 Stanhope Gardens
 ☎ (02) 8678 9149 Rouse Hill
 ☎ (02) 9629 4444 North Kellyville
www.climbingladders.com.au



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

✉ 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

	7	14	21	28	
Jul	Tambolero	Ring	Tina B	Lee	
Aug	Jacob	Meena B	Sebastian	Pangilinan E	
Sep	Fernandes	Jakob B	Tangunan	Erasmus	Shalini
Oct	Erasmus	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 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



With the support and encouragement of
Bishop Vincent Long



Presented by
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,
Blacktown

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.

Lectors

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](https://www.instagram.com/blazeyouthsj23) on Insta | FB or Contact Ellena - 0478 685 191

IGNITE YOUNG ADULTS 18 - 35 years of age

WHEN: First Sundays each month 7:00 - 9:30pm

WHERE: St John XXIII Staffroom

For any queries please either email gnite.stjohn23@gmail.com or

DM on @[ignite_sj23](https://www.instagram.com/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
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



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!

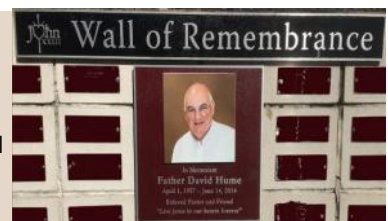


COLUMBARIUM

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
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.

July Calendar

Mon	6	8:30am - Mass
Tues	7	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary prayer 7:30pm - Novena mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	8	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	9	9:15am - Mass
Fri	10	9:15am - Mass
Sat	11	<i>Saint Benedict (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	12	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	

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.

Pre-Order your Favourites*

Place your order in advance and collect it after
10am on Sunday, 26 July

Scan or use
<https://forms.gle/J4SGMX9jqWGTDSzY7>

Pre-order cut off
Tuesday, 21st July

***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!



Month of the Precious Blood

The month of July (Overview - Calendar) is dedicated to the Precious Blood. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."

The Old Testament

Cain and Abel are making an offering. Abel's sacrifice is pleasing to God, Cain's is not. This gives rise to the sin of hatred, and fratricide is its resolution. The thirsting earth soaks up Abel's blood as it shouts to heaven for vengeance. This shouting prefigured the scene on Calvary, where Christ's Blood cried to heaven for the redemption of mankind.

Millenia pass, and now we see Israel oppressed by Egypt. God commands the people to kill a lamb and to sprinkle the doorposts with its blood; houses thus besprinkled are spared by the messenger of death. But where the doors are not reddened with the blood of the lamb, all male firstborn from king to slave die. This blood on the doorposts was a type of the Blood of Christ. Can the blood of a lamb save a man? No, but as a figure of the Redeemer's Blood it certainly does. For when the Destroyer sees the thresholds of a human heart marked with Christ's sacred Blood, he must pass by. And another soul is saved.

In a vision the prophet Isaias saw a man treading out grapes (in the Orient, trampling upon grapes in the wine-press was the usual means of extracting the juice). The prophet asked the man: "Why are your garments so red?" "The wine-press I have trodden alone," he answers, "because from the nations there is no one with me." The trodder of the wine-press is Christ, His garments crimsoned by the Blood of redemption.

Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace , Pius Parsch

The New Testament

The Church reminds us of the first drops of blood that flowed for our redemption on the day when Jesus was circumcised.

It is night on Mount Olivet, and the moon is shining. We see the holy face crimsoned with blood during the agony in the garden.

Unhappy, despairing Judas casts the blood-money down in the temple. "I have betrayed innocent blood!"

In the scourging chamber we see the Lord in deepest humiliation; under raw strokes the divine Blood spurts out over the floor. Christ is led before Pilate. Pilate shows the blood-covered Body to the crowds: Ecce homo! We go through Jerusalem's streets following the bloody footsteps to Golgotha. Down the beams of the Cross blood trickles. A soldier opens the sacred side. Water and Blood.

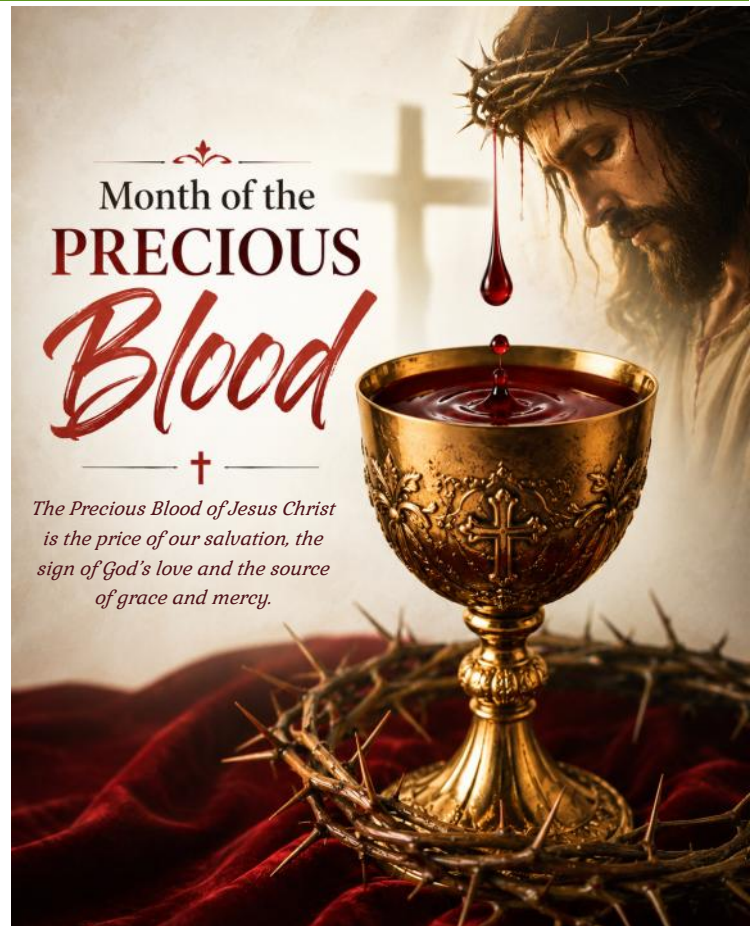
Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace , Pius Parsch

Symbols of the Precious Blood

Adam is sleeping an ecstatic sleep. God opens his side, removes a rib and forms Eve, the mother of all the living. But our view transcends this action and in spirit we behold the second, the divine Adam, Christ. He is sleeping the sleep of death. From His opened side blood and water flow, symbols of baptism and the Eucharist, symbols of the second Eve, the Church, the Mother of all the living. Through blood and water Christ willed to redeem God's many children and to lead them to an eternal home.

At Jerusalem a service in Yahweh's honor is taking place on the Day of Atonement. The high priest is making his annual entrance into the holy of holies to sprinkle the blood of bucks and bulls upon the covenant in expiation for the sins of the people. The Church shows us the higher meaning of this rite. Our divine High Priest Christ on the first Good Friday entered that Holy of Holies which is not made with hands nor sprinkled with the blood of bucks and bulls; there He effects, once and for all, with His own Blood man's eternal redemption.

A finale. Holy Church transports us to the end. The heavenly liturgy is in progress. Upon the altar is the Lamb, slain yet alive, crimsoned by His own Blood. Round about stand the countless army of the redeemed in garments washed white in the Blood of the Lamb. Hosts of the blessed are singing the new canticle of redemption: "You have redeemed us out of every tribe and tongue and nation by Your Blood."



Now from vision to present reality. How fortunate we are to have divine Blood so near to us, to offer it to the heavenly Father for the sins of the whole world!

Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace , Pius Parsch

Devotion to the Precious Blood

Devotion to the Precious Blood is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and that not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ. I really believe that one of the symptoms of modern society (and I would even include, sadly, modern Catholic society) one of the symptoms of a growing, gnawing secularism is the lessening and the weakening of devotion to the Precious Blood. Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first- veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly- imitation. In other words, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first of all to be veneration on our part, which is a composite of knowledge, love and adoration. We are to study to come to a deeper understanding of what those two casual words, Precious Blood, really mean.

I found this passage in the oldest document, outside of sacred scripture, from the first century of the Christian era – to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. Says Pope Clement: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious It is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age in which to sin has become fashionable.

This veneration of the Precious Blood, which is the first element in our devotion to the Precious Blood means that we have a deep sensitivity to the awfulness of sin. Sin must be terrible. It must be awful. It must be the most dreadful thing in the universe. Why? Because it cost the living God in human form the shedding of His Blood.

Lord Jesus, You became Man in order by your Passion and Death and the draining of your Blood on the Cross, might prove to us how much You, our God, love us. Protect us, dear Jesus, from ever running away from the sight of blood. Strengthen our weak human wills so that we will not only not run away from the cross, but welcome every opportunity to shed our blood in spirit in union with your Precious Blood, so that, dying to ourselves in time we might live with You in Eternity. Amen

Excerpted from The Precious Blood of Christ, Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/07_1.cfm

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