

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

Jeremiah's language in the first reading (*Jer 20:7-9*) may shock people unfamiliar with mystics' use of erotic language when talking of the soul's relationship with God. Here Jeremiah claims to be like one seduced, in language like that of one so besotted as to trustingly surrender to the lover, only then to feel betrayed. The second line may even be suggestive of rape; and it is not unknown for mystics to speak of the soul as being ravished by God. Perhaps the context is his initial call, which was to tear up, knock down, destroy and overthrow, and to build and plant (*Jer 1:10*); so far all that has happened concerns destruction: he has done none of the promised building and planting. The prophet's complaint is that he has been lured into proclaiming a message no one likes, and yet he is so captivated by God that he cannot stop: the message is like fire burning in his heart and imprisoned in his bones. Not only might jilted lovers recognise the sentiment here, but also those who experience the indescribable anguish and emotional pain that leads them to self-mutilation to release the inner pressure.

Psalms 63(62) then speaks words of consolation, at least if read as a call to recognise all such inner anguish as the response to a deep-seated desire that none other than God can satisfy. For mystics, who do recognise this, that deep pressure manifests itself not in self-harming ways, but in a self-giving, pouring forth one's life in service, in prayer, and even in tears of sorrow for any sins that divide from God, or tears of anguish for any perceived separation from God. This is not inconsistent with the second reading (*Rom 12:1-2*), which speaks of the rational worship that comprises self-giving, modelled on God's own self-giving. Early Christian apologists understood this as a rejection of

the former practices of offering "irrational" animals in bloody sacrifice, or other foods, or incense, but since offering human sacrifice is abhorrent and contrary to the love owed to all human beings as images of God, the rational sacrifice can be none other than the acknowledgment of God as Creator and the offering of one's self in prayer (in praise and thanksgiving) and in acts of love for other people. This is the self-giving indicated in the gospel (*Matt 16:21-27*) as Jesus begins to prepare the disciples for his destined suffering and death in Jerusalem, and the resurrection. His death is not to be understood in the way of the holocausts of the Mosaic Law, for the Father does not offer the Son as a more complete form of an imperfect sacrifice. It is instead the self-giving act of God for the sake of beloved humanity, a self-surrender in the face of threatened violence, even unto death, a selfless showing of the pathway of God's incomprehensible love. The disciples are unwilling or unable to hear this message, and Peter, so soon after his profession of faith, so soon after being called the rock of the Church's foundation, betrays his own failure to understand the Messiah's mission. This earns him the rebuke that reveals another interpretation of his new name, meaning Rock: he may be the foundation's rock, or a stumbling stone, the rock you stub your toe on. But how could Peter understand the cross when none did until after that catastrophe and the resurrection? Then, as now, it is not easy to draw near to the perplexing message of the cross in all its depth. Perhaps sometimes we draw near when we contemplate how parents spend their very lives for their children, and lovers for each other, and carers for those in need.

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/>

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal – Honour a lifetime of faithful service

We give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code.

Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.

Bishop's FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

CLERGY SUPPORT FOUNDATION

Honour a lifetime of faithful service this Father's Day.

Your tax-deductible gift today helps care for our retired priests and clergy in ill-health.

parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal

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

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

cf Ephesians 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Take up your cross
and follow me



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

Rina Colussi, Pol Lozada, Cynthia Paragon, Carlus Endrique Carceller, Therese Cassar, Isidro Muhi

Remembrances:

Sarath Avis Jayasiri

Death Anniversary

Jeremy Vallejo

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 Dadvivas, Jerwin McCarron, Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Elsie Knapp, Josie Lewis, Emma Matoza, Zena Samar, Lenka Olivier Talija, Marilyn Nalapo, Charlie Busuttil, Imelda Vinluan, Babies with Blister disease, Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly

Thanksgiving

Estela Pangilinan, Tony Sioson

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

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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 progress with the construction of our Parish Hall/Office. 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**

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/StJohnXXIIIPG.SG>
- ★ scan QR Code

Thank you for your support.

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





ST JOHN XXIII
PARISH
GLENWOOD-STANHOPE GARDENS

BUILDING *Our Future* TOGETHER

We are building for today, to bless generations tomorrow.
 Help us create spaces for worship, fellowship, faith formation and community outreach.

A SPACE TO GROW IN FAITH. A COMMUNITY TO BELONG.



Proposed Hall Extension (2 storeys) | Existing Church (1 storey)

WORK IN PROGRESS

- NEW PARISH HALL**
A welcoming space for worship, gatherings, and community events.
- NEW OFFICE AND MEETING ROOM**
Functional spaces to support ministries, administration and parish services.
- AIR-CONDITIONED CHURCH**
Creating a comfortable and prayerful environment for everyone.



Proposed Hall Extension (2 storeys) | Existing Church (1 storey)

Together, we can build a place of faith, hope and belonging.

Every gift makes a difference!

TARGET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED

\$1,000,000.00

MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE PARISH THROUGH DIFFERENT FUND-RAISING EFFORTS AND DONATIONS:

\$249,071.00

CASH NEEDED TO BE RAISED TO MEET OUR TARGET:

\$750,929.00

THANK YOU
for your generous support!

Your prayers, generosity and commitment are building more than walls - you are building a legacy of faith for generations to come.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AND HELP US REACH OUR GOAL.
God bless you abundantly!

 WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT 24 August to 28 August	
Completed Items - Removal of doors - Hydraulic temp services connections - Disconnect existing services and reroute sewer - Cover door openings - Earthworks - dig inspection holes, cut and prepare site, detailed cut and build driveway - Service location - Grid and RL set outs Activities being completed this week onsite - Remove lights - Test and tag - Earthworks to bulk out site - Relocate or protect existing services WHS - Temp fencing has been established with relevant signage fixed - Contact information for school reps has been received and sent to site team	Contracts Let - Switchcom - Electrical - Sydform - Concrete - Ace Group- Structural steel - DTC - Demolition - All Hills Fencing - gate - TJM - Hydraulic & stormwater - Geo Surv - Surveying and locating - MGI Piling - Piling - WCG - Security - GCA - Geotech - Tantiworx - Earthworks - TNM - Pinboard - Echo - Mechanical - Cronulla Brick & Block - Blockwork

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

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Ambrose Early Learning

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.celcstanhope.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

Sep	1	8	15	22	29
	Fernandes	Jakob B	Tanganun	Erasmus	Jayakoddy
Oct	6	13	20	27	
	Erasmus	Sebastian	Shalini	Ring	
Nov	3	10	17	24	
	Barnouti	Tina B.	Meena B	Jacob	
Dec	1	8	15	22	29
	Available	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

August 27 - Natural Family Planning

MET Natural Fertility: Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) Initial Instruction via Teams August 27

Tuesday 27 August, 7:30-8:30pm. The most important symptom alerting women to ovulation is used in all methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP). The Sympto-Thermal Method includes measuring your basal body temperature, which also confirms ovulation! This method is 99.6% effective in postponing pregnancy and helps couples identify the best time to achieve pregnancy! If you would like to refresh your knowledge and skills or begin NFP then this is the session for you! To register visit parracatholic.org/natural-fertility

You are invited to attend a

Married Couples' RETREAT

"Reflect, Renew & Reconnect"

Saturday 5th September 2026

**Bishop Bede Heather Centre,
1 Marion Street, Blacktown**

8:30am to 4:30pm

\$45 per couple
Bookings essential
Places strictly limited
Register at:
parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/

Sessions

- Expressions of Love
- Living your Vocation of Marriage
- 7 Principles of making Marriage Work
- Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit
- Couple Prayer + Commitment Ceremony
- Mass with Bishop Vincent

Included

- Lunch + refreshments

FILCOS Blacktown
invites you to the
FEAST OF THE
Nativity
OF THE
BLESSED
MOTHER MARY

SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

St John XXIII Catholic Parish Church
160 Perfection Avenue
Stanhope Gardens
NSW 2768

9:00 AM
Holy Mass

Main Celebrant
Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen
Co-celebrants
Fr Nards Mercene
Fr Jolly Chacko

Please bring your image of the Blessed Mother Mary for special blessing.

--- Brunch sharing to follow ---
Come together as a community in prayer, thanksgiving, and fellowship.
We hope to see you there!

FOR ENQUIRIES

• Minda	0404 807 122	• Lou	0407 953 316
• Luz	0414 895 346	• Blug	0401 770 149
• Nina	0405 855 777	• Lito	0430 151 079

45th YEAR FILCOS ANNIVERSARY

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

Diocesan News



For more events please go to <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/> or <https://catholicoutlook.org/>

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.

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 18 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 Limuangco 0478 629629 International

		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

For more info contact
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

RCIA Enquiry Session

The parish RCIA team is having the enquiry session on Thursday 20th August 2026 at 7.00pm in the Church kitchen area.

If you have family or friends or anyone who might be interested in understanding our Catholic faith, please invite them to this session.

The RCIA programme will commence on Wednesday, 2nd September 2026.

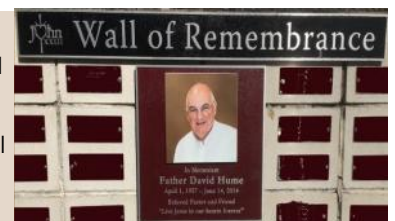


COLUMBARIUM

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	31	8:30am - Mass
September		
Tues	1	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Prayer 7:30pm - Novena Mass <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	2	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	3	<i>Saint Gregory the Great (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Fri	4	<i>Saint Augustine (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass <i>Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>
Sat	5	<i>The Passion of Saint John the Baptist (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	6	7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Sunday, 30 August - Satay Sunday



Come and enjoy a delicious Sunday treat hosted by our wonderful Indonesian Community!

Savour authentic Indonesian Satay, freshly prepared and served with warmth and love. Bring your family and friends, enjoy great food, and celebrate the wonderful diversity of our parish community. Everyone is welcome! Come hungry and enjoy a taste of Indonesia!
After our morning masses

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER GROUP ST JOHN XXIII PARISH

DINNER FOR A CAUSE A TRIBUTE TO ALL FATHERS

18th SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY
6:30PM TO 11:30PM

2 COURSE PLATED DINNER | DRINK | MUSIC®

THE HILLS LODGE
1 Salisbury Road cnr Windsor Road,
Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Tickets \$125pp
ONLY 100 SEATS AVAILABLE
SURPRISE RAFFLE PRIZES

COCKTAIL ATTIRE

PROCEEDS GOES TO
ST JOHN XXIII PARISH

For more information
MARCY 0427 607047 | MELVA 0413 725224

Celebrate Fathers with Us – Dinner for a Cause!

This September, join our OLPH Prayer Group 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, be entertained by live music to set the mood. Plus, there’s an exciting surprise raffle draw where all attendees have the chance to win!

The event will take place at The Hills Lodge, Castle Hill with limited seating for only 100 guest—so don’t miss out.

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



Please save the date — Sunday, 4 October 2026

Come along with your family and friends for a wonderful afternoon of food, treats, music, games and plenty of fun for the kids. Exciting raffle draw with fantastic prizes.

This is a special opportunity for us to come together as one parish community, celebrate our feast day and enjoy a great afternoon of fellowship and fun.

Please scan the QR code to register for catering and other logistics.

\$20 RAFFLE TICKET
ON SALE AT THE CHURCH FOYER
or help us sell to your relatives and friends



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 planned giving option ☎ 02 88835981 or
✉ 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

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The present Feast forms a link between the New and the Old Testament. It shows that Truth succeeds symbols and figures and that the New Covenant replaces the Old. Hence, all creation sings with joy, exults, and participates in the joy of this day.... This is, in fact, the day on which the Creator of the world constructed His temple; today is the day on which by a stupendous project a creature becomes the preferred dwelling of the Creator" (Saint Andrew of Crete).

"Let us celebrate with joy the birth of the Virgin Mary, of whom was born the Sun of Justice.... Her birth constitutes the hope and the light of salvation for the whole world.... Her image is light for the whole Christian people" (From the Liturgy).

As these texts so clearly indicate, an atmosphere of joy and light pervades the Birth of the Virgin Mary.

1. Historical Details about the Feast

The origin of this Feast is sought in Palestine. It goes back to the consecration of a church in Jerusalem, which tradition identifies as that of the present basilica of St. Ann.

At Rome the Feast began to be kept toward the end of the 7th century, brought there by Eastern monks. Gradually and in varied ways it spread to the other parts of the West in the centuries that followed. From the 13th century on, the celebration assumed notable importance, becoming a Solemnity with a major Octave and preceded by a Vigil calling for a fast. The Octave was reduced to a simple one during the reform of St. Pius X and was abolished altogether under the reform of Pius XII in 1955.

The present Calendar characterizes the Birth of Mary as a "Feast," placing it on the same plane as the Visitation.

For some centuries now, the Birth has been assigned to September 8 both in the East and in the West, but in ancient times it was celebrated on different dates from place to place. However, when the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (which has a later origin than that of the Birth) was extended to the whole Church, the Birth little by little became assigned everywhere to September 8: nine months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

2. At the Heart of Salvation

As we know, the Gospels have not transmitted to us anything about the birth of the Virgin Mary. Their attention is completely centered on the mystery of Christ and His salvific mission.

The birth of Mary is recounted by the Protevangelium of James (5:2), an apocryphal writing from the end of the 2nd century. Subsequent tradition is based on this account.

The description - although in the manner of an apocryphal document - obviously presents an important historical event: the birth of the Mother of the Lord.

But the problem that concerns us here is the significance of this event. In the case of all the Saints, the Church commemorates their birthday on the day of their return to the Lord. However, in the cases of St. John the Baptizer and the Blessed Virgin, it also celebrates the day of their earthly birth. This is a singular fact already emphasized in ancient times, for example, by Paschasius Radbertus (d. about 859).

The reason for this fact is not found primarily in the greatness or the privileges of the persons involved but in the singular mission that was theirs in the History of Salvation. In this light, the birth of the Blessed Virgin is considered to be - like that of John the Baptizer - in direct relationship with the coming of the Savior of the world. Thus, the birth and existence of Mary similar to and even more than those of the Baptizer - take on a significance that transcends her own person. It is explained solely in the context of the History of Salvation, connected with the People of God of the Old Covenant and the New. Mary's birth lies at the confluence of the two Testaments - bringing to an end the stage of expectation and the promises and inaugurating the new times of grace and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Mary, the Daughter of Zion and ideal personification of Israel, is the last and most worthy representative of the People of the Old Covenant but at the same time she is "the hope and the dawn of the whole world." With her, the elevated Daughter of Zion, after a long expectation of the promises, the times are fulfilled and a new economy is established (LG 55).

The birth of Mary is ordained in particular toward her mission as Mother of the Savior. Her existence is indissolubly connected with that of Christ: it partakes of a unique plan of predestination and grace. God's mysterious plan regarding the incarnation of the Word embraces also the Virgin who is His Mother. In this way, the Birth of Mary is inserted at the very heart of the History of Salvation.

3. Christological Orientations

The Biblical readings of the Feast have a clear Christological- salvific orientation that forms the backdrop for contemplating the figure of Mary.

Micah 5:1-4a. The Prophet announces the coming of the Lord of Israel who will come forth from Bethlehem of Judah. The Mother of the Messiah, presented as one about to give birth, will give life to the prince and pastor of the house of David who will bring justice and peace. She will work with the Messiah to bring forth a new people.

Romans 8:28-30. This passage does not speak directly about Mary but about the believer justified by the grace of Christ and gifted with the indwelling of the Spirit. He or she has been chosen and called from all eternity to share Christ's life and glory. This is true in a privileged manner for Mary, Spouse and Temple of the Holy Spirit, Mother of God's Son, and intimately united with Him in a Divine plan of predestination and grace.

Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23. The meaning of this seemingly and genealogy is theologically profound: to place Jesus, the Messiah Lord, within the dynastic tree of His people. He is a descendant, and in fact "the descendant," of Abraham (cf. Gal 3:16) and the Patriarchs in accord with the promises, and He is the semi-heir of the Prophets. The ring that united Christ with His people is Mary, Daughter of Zion and Mother of the Lord.

The virginity stressed by the Gospel text is the sign of the Divine origin of the Son and of the absolute newness that now breaks forth in the history of human beings.

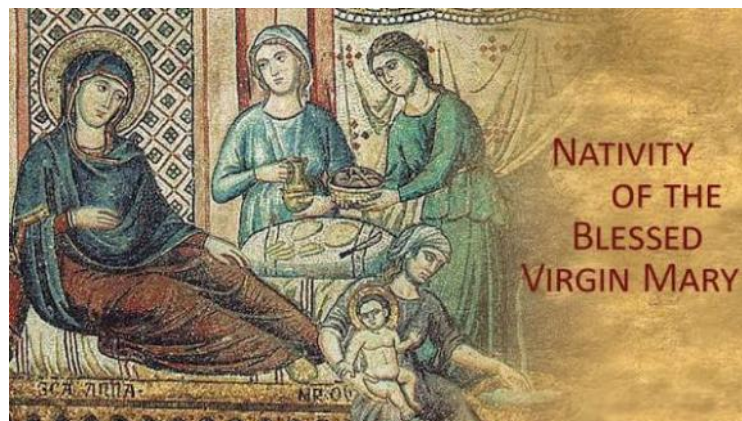
The Christological-salvific purpose and tone dominate not only the Bible readings but also the Eucharistic Celebration and the Liturgy of the Hours.

It has been observed that, although the texts of this Feast's celebration are less rich than those of other Marian feasts, they do have one outstanding characteristic: "The number of themes is rather restricted, [but] there are extremely numerous invitations to joy" (J. Pascher).

Indeed, joy pervades the whole of this Feast's liturgy. If many "will rejoice" at the birth of the precursor (cf. Lk 1:14), a much greater joy is stirred up by the birth of the Mother of the Savior. Hence, this is a Feast that serves as a prelude to the "joy to all people" brought about by the Birth of the Son of God at Christmas and expressed by the singing of hymns and carols.

Added to this theme of joy on this Marian Feast is that of light because with Mary's birth the darkness is dispersed and there rises in the world the dawn that announces the Sun of Justice, Christ the Lord.

<https://www.evtn.com/catholicism/saints/nativity-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-821>



If you would like to advertise your business please contact the parish office. This helps support our parish
St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.

Climate airconditioning

DESIGN // INSTALLATIONS // SERVICE // REPAIRS

0400 841 601



Francis Alphonse at
Chrysalis Law Group
provides a range
of legal services.

Home visits for the elderly or infirm at
no extra charge in selected areas.

Ph 8046 7666

Email francis@chrysalislegal.com.au

Sonic Shuttle
**Airport Drop
And Pickup**

Our 24/7 Airport Drop and Pickup Service ensures safe, punctual, and comfortable transportation.

Our Phone
041 009 4420 / 040 211 5623

Grand Motors Sydney



Grand Motors Sydney offers a wide range of
certified used vehicles to suit any budget.

We offer trade-ins, finance and insurance,
getting you on the road sooner.

Contact your local parishioner, Ravi Virwani, on
0421 876584.

Visit us at 29 Brumby Street, Seven Hills or
online www.grandmotorsydney.com.au

Open 7 Days Open 7 Days

**MINCHINBURY
Fruit Market**

1039 Great Western Hwy, Minchinbury NSW 2770
Your Local Grocer Since 1960

- Maltese Food**
- Maltese Biscuits
 - Three Hills Kunserv
 - Pastizzi & Ravioli
 - Mayor Zalza & Sugar
 - Zalzett
 - Kinnie
- * Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
* Huge Selection of General & Continental Groceries
* Frozen Foods Section * Delicatessen in store



Phone: 9625 8021

Email: admin@minchinburyfruitmarket.com.au



Risen Lord Community Praise & Worship Night 7.30pm FRIDAYS, St John 23rd College Hall



Come join us for an evening of
deep intimacy with the Lord.
Learn about the abundant and
victorious life that Jesus died
and purchased for us to have.



**Antony-John's
Consulting**

Christian Psychologist

0426 950 060

info@antonyjohnconsulting.com

www.antonyjohnconsulting.com



Christian Colouring Books



Get from amazon.com.au
Search -> Jesus: A Journey in Colour or Lejandra Rae



Hills Family Funerals

'Let our family help you through'

'We understand the importance of family
and it shows in everything that we do,
a tradition of care and concern'

- 24 Hour Care
- Funeral Planning
- Prepaid Funerals
- Australian Owned & Family Operated

For Personal Attention please call
Richard Spiteri on 02 9659 0900
(340 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill)



Advertise
Here

QUAKERS HILL FAMILY PRACTICE

- Multi Doctor practice with Christian values at the core
 - In-house Allied health and Dental clinic
- Compliments from Quakers Hill
Family Practice**

Books are now open for new patients

Tel - 02 9626 6300

www.qhfp.com.au



Michael Xiberras
0412 914 332

Call Michael for all of your plumbing needs

- ✓ plumbing
- ✓ gas fitting
- ✓ blockage clearing
- ✓ backflow prevention
- ✓ CCTV in pipe camera inspections and locating
- ✓ drainage
- ✓ hot water
- ✓ excavations
- ✓ roof plumbing

michael@smickplumbing.com.au lic no. 246475C



Your local real estate agents

SELL | BUY | RENT

02 9631 1101 moverealty.au

Stella & Co REAL ESTATE

Looking for a
Real Estate Agent you
can trust?



Call **Julia Stella**
0431 277 110

julia@stellaandcorealestate.com.au
www.stellaandcorealestate.com.au

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

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

UnitedRE Connecting People
& Properties

Sav Singh
Director/Principal
0403 248 907
sav@unitedre.com.au
unitedre.com.au

"I know the value of Stanhope Gardens
because my family lives here too."

Your local expert for
buying, selling &
property management

For every home sold
from this bulletin,
United RE will donate
\$500 back to the Parish

Scan to text Sav

NDIS REGISTERED PROVIDER
REGISTRATION NO: 4-K5695U

MAHAL CARE
HEALTH SERVICES

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Personal Care Support
- ✓ Travel Support Domestic and International
- ✓ Social Support

SPECIALIZATION

- ✓ Quadriplegic
- ✓ Paraplegic
- ✓ Aged Care
- ✓ Traumatic Brain Injury

QUALITY CARE FOR NDIS & PRIVATE CLIENTS

0468 732 591
catherine.alba@mahalcare.com.au
www.mahalcare.com.au

Together for Better Health and Brighter Tomorrows

REGULAR CLEANING
DEEP CLEANING
OFFICE CLEANING
GARDEN MAINTENANCE SERVICES
MOVE-IN/ MOVE-OUT CLEANING
INQUIRIES ABOUT ADDITIONAL SERVICES OFFERED

MAHAL CLEANING SERVICES

RELIABLE & TRUSTED
ATTENTION TO DETAIL
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING
PROFESSIONAL TEAM

CLEANING WITH CARE

0485 701 454 0485 532 539
enquiries@mahalcleaningservices.com.au
www.mahalcleaningservices.com.au



**Holy Family
Services**

Retiring **Early Learning Centre** **Aged Care**

holyfamilyservices.com.au • Call us: 9678 8200

A Ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth



- ✓ Driveways & Retaining Walls
- ✓ Timber Decking & Patios
- ✓ All Outdoor Hard Surfaces
- ✓ Environmentally Friendly
- ✓ Prompt and Reliable
- ✓ Beat Any Verified Quote



0416 336 894

info@pressurepro.com.au

[sydneypressurepro](https://www.facebook.com/sydneypressurepro)

Sydney Pressure Pro

Support our advertisers