

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

Last Sunday's notes ended with the observation that the Law maybe summed up as cherish (or love) your neighbour as your own self. Another way of putting that is: do to others as you would have them do to you. Today's gospel parable puts it yet another way: do for others as God does for you. The parable that conveys this message is rather dramatic, for who cannot but be affronted by the bad behaviour of the man one who is relieved of a burdensome debt but refuses to do the same for a much smaller one? One might well imagine the outpouring of indignant outrage that such a scene would prompt through social media today that, for whatever benefits it may provide, is so often foul pool of seething resentment and anger. The members of that "virtual" mob, anything but virtuous in its behaviour, bay and howl from the safety of relative anonymity, too ready always to take offence and to interpret anything in the worst possible way. It is amazing how people who are so quick to reject the Hebrew Scriptures (the "Old" Testament) with the claim that its picture of God is of one who is angry and vindictive yet themselves are so ready to leap to judgement, to punish and destroy; they are not kind and merciful, not slow to anger and not rich in compassion.

The all too human culturing of resent and anger, and the nurturing of desire for vengeance, can be so much easier than hearing the divine call to forgiveness. But people do sometimes admit that maintaining hurt and anger can take a terrible toll, in effect consuming one's life and imparting bitterness that poisons other relationships. In learning to forgive the wrongdoer, wronged parties find that they claim back their own life. Imagine that God was just some more powerful form of human being; imagine God as resentful and angry, wanting and plotting vengeance – what a bitter eternity this would make for. No; rather God lives on other terms, free from such foul things, free to love, desiring created human beings also to be free. Hence also the question in our baptismal promises, "Do you renounce sin so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?" This renunciation may be not only of our own offences but also the burden of others' offences.

The way of forgiveness must not be imagined as easy, and the person wronged cannot be hectored or lectured into forgiving. Some offences cut very deep, the hurt is profound and long lasting, and the grace to leave it behind may grow only very slowly. Remembrance of our own failings, offences and sins, even if of a lesser grade than the offence received, can lower our hostility towards the other sinner, but it takes grace to feel compassion for them; if you imagine that you could not live with yourself if you were to act in the same way as the offender has towards you, then you have at least the beginnings of compassion for the other, an ability to imagine how miserable it must be to be them. Some offenders may consider their faults and change their ways when a compassionate response prompts their own remorse, but will stubbornly refuse to do so, almost as a defensive response, if faced with direct anger or correction. The way of compassionate forgiveness will always remain, therefore, a difficult path, but the message of the cross, the divine message, is that it is the only way that ends the wrong and heals the hurt.

The gospel parable puts the onus on each of us to learn to forgive lest we condemn ourselves before God for not doing what we ourselves hope for or ask of God.

Mass Times

Mon	8:30am
Tues-Fri	9:15am
Sat	9:00am, 6pm Vigil
Sun	7:30am 9am 10:30am 6pm
Holy Cross Primary School	
Wed	9:15am <i>during school days</i>
2nd Sat	7:30pm Indonesian Mass

Masses of Devotion

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

Exposition + Benediction

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

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

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

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

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading

Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

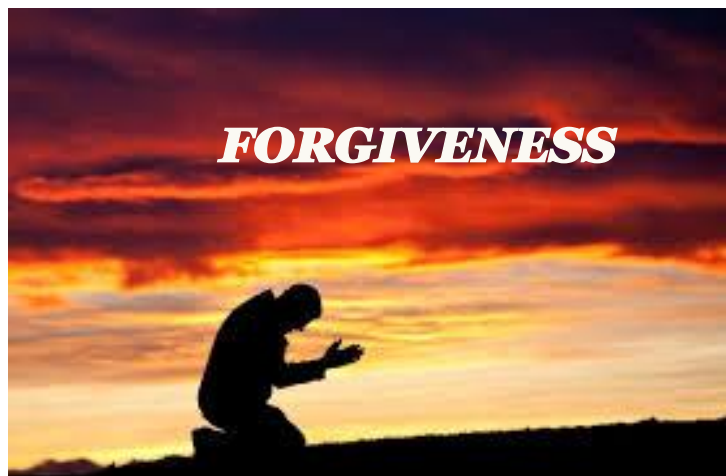
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. 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

Lydia Miguel, Canunita Edmilao, Cynthia Paragon

Remembrances:

Piedade Mendes, Maligaya Morales, Felicisimo Esteban

Death Anniversary

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 Taliya, Marilyn Napalo, Charlie Busuttil, 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 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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

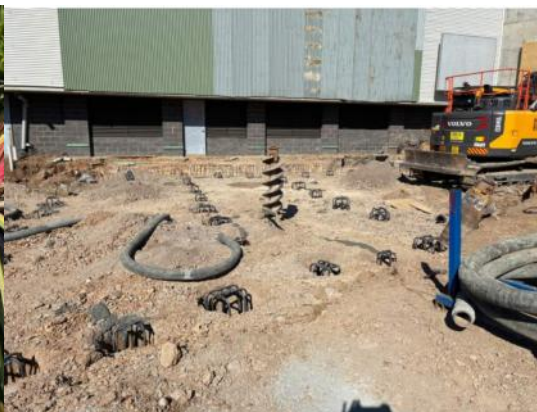
Be part of that good news. Let us be generous, cheerful and rejoice in the goodness of the Lord. For your donations:

- ★ 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



WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT 7 September to 11 September	
Milestone Summary ✓ Contract Award 6/07/26 ✓ Building Permit Issued 22/07/26 ✓ Commencement On Site 10/08/26 ☺ Practical completion 5/02/27	Activities being completed this week onsite – Piling (ongoing) – Electrical rough in of services below lower ground slab (ongoing) – Hydraulic rough in of services below lower ground slab (ongoing) – CLS Piers Inspection 7/9 – Excavation of slab footings and RW3 footing – Steel reinforcement delivery – Form and steel RW3 footings – Retaining wall footing inspection 11/9
Completed Items this period – Re-locate sewer line – CLS piers inspection 11am 31/08	



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

✉ 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

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
	Shalini	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

SPECIAL EOYF / 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

**ST JOHN XXIII
NEW COLLEGE PRAYER
FEEDBACK FORM**

OUR COLLEGE PRAYER SHOULD REFLECT WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE VALUE AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW WE SEEK TO FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER AS A ST JOHN XXIII COMMUNITY.

WE INVITE YOU TO SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE DRAFT PRAYER AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS. WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT RESONATES WITH YOU, WHAT YOU THINK MIGHT BE MISSING, AND WHAT YOU BELIEVE WOULD HELP OUR PRAYER SPEAK TO EVERY MEMBER OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

YOUR VOICE WILL HELP US SHAPE A PRAYER THAT IS MEANINGFUL, AUTHENTIC AND TRULY OUR J23 COLLEGE PRAYER.

"St Francis continues to speak" – Pope Leo XIV

Proclaiming the Special Year, Pope Leo XIV said St Francis still speaks to a world marked by war and division – not through solutions, but through a life that points to the true source of peace.

Recalling Francis' greeting, "May the Lord give you peace," the Pope said peace is God's gift, embracing peace with God, with one another, and with all creation.

The Special Year commemorates the Transit of St Francis, who died in 1226 after a life radically shaped by the Gospel. His witness of humility, mercy and love for the poor continues to inspire the Church to live the Gospel with joy and courage today.

This Year of Grace follows the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 and invites the faithful to allow the hope they have received to be transformed into active charity, reconciliation and peace.

Make a pilgrimage

There are many places of pilgrimage within the Diocese of Parramatta, covering Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, connected to St Francis in name or otherwise. These include:

- † The Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Plumpton – under the pastoral care of Capuchin Franciscans
- † St Bernadette's Catholic Church, Dundas Valley – under the pastoral care of the Friars of St Francis
- † Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Kellyville and Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville – under the pastoral care of the Conventual Franciscans
- † Poor Clares Monastery, North Richmond
- † Our Lady of Consolation Chapel, Rooty Hill – under the pastoral care of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
- † St Raphael's Slovenian Catholic Church, Merrylands – under the pastoral care of the Franciscan Friars OFM
- † Croatian Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Great Croatian Covenant, Blacktown – under the pastoral care of the Franciscan Friars OFM

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 Limguangco 0478 629629 International



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

Vinnies

join the good works



For more info contact
Debra Pitre
0412 570333

A NEW WAY TO SERVE TOGETHER!

Introducing Ministry Scheduler Pro

Praise the Lord!

Our parish is getting ready for a new and easier way to

manage our ministry rosters!

We are excited to introduce **Ministry Scheduler Pro**,

which we are planning to launch for the **October rostering period**.

With the new system, volunteers will be able to:

- 📱 View your roster anytime
- 📅 Update your availability
- 🔔 Receive reminders
- 🔄 Manage replacements when needed

Don't worry if technology isn't your thing! **We will provide guidance and support to help everyone get comfortable with the new system.** This is more than just a new roster - it's about making it easier for all of us to serve, communicate and grow together as a volunteering community. Please prayerfully embrace this next chapter of our parish journey.

More information and instructions coming soon!

One parish. Many ministries. One community serving together.



MINISTRY SCHEDULER PRO
Volunteers · Scheduling and Roster Planning

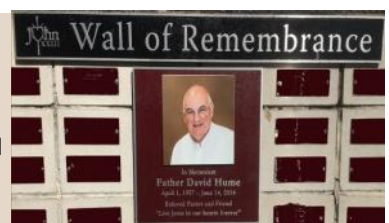


COLUMBARIUM

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!



September Calendar

Mon	14	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (F)</i> 8:30am - Mass
Tues	15	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Novena Prayer <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	16	<i>Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	17	9:15am - Mass
Fri	18	9:15am - Mass
Sat	19	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	20	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA 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.

What a Treat — and What Wonderful Support!

Few weeks ago, Vinnies Stanhope Conference held its Soup Sale after the Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sunday morning Masses - and what a wonderful celebration of community, generosity and kindness it became!

Our members rolled up their sleeves and put their culinary talents to work, creating an amazing variety of delicious homemade soups. Each bowl was served with delicious buns, generously donated by St Malo’s Bakery.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Parish team and every parishioner who supported us through donations, encouragement and generosity. Together, you helped make our Soup Sale a wonderful success, raising close to \$2,000.

Every dollar raised will go directly towards helping people and families experiencing hardship. It will enable Vinnies to provide food, assistance with outstanding bills, toiletries, and other everyday essentials that can make a meaningful difference when it is needed most.

Thank you for helping us turn a simple bowl of soup into a helping hand, and a community gathering into a source of hope. Your generosity enables Vinnies to continue bringing dignity, compassion and practical support to people in need.

If you would like to join Vinnies and be part of making a difference in our community, please reach out to Debra Pitre (0412 570 333)

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation.



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

Where did the Nicene Creed come from?

The Nicene Creed is the declaration of the Christian faith for all Catholics and Orthodox as well as many Protestants. It is also called the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, because it was defined at the Councils of Nicaea (325 A.D.) and Constantinople (381 A.D.).

The Nicene Creed explains the Church's teachings about the Trinity and affirms historical realities of Jesus' life. The creed does not directly quote Scripture, but it is based on biblical truths.

The Council of Nicaea was the first general council of the Church since the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem, which set conditions for Gentiles to join the Church. Roman persecution of Christians had just ended 12 years earlier, but now the Church was divided over the question of Jesus' divinity. Heretics led by a priest named Arius in Alexandria, Egypt, claimed that if Jesus was begotten by God, He must have had a beginning like every other part of God's creation – therefore, Jesus was not fully God.

The theological dispute threatened the peace of the Roman empire, so Emperor Constantine – at the request of several concerned bishops – called for a meeting of all the Church's bishops in the easily accessible town of Nicaea (present-day Iznik, Turkey), organized like the Roman Senate with himself as a non-voting observer. The council met in Senatus Palace (which now lies under Lake Iznik).

An estimated 318 bishops came from Rome, Jerusalem and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Greece, Asia Minor, Persia, Georgia, Armenia, Gaul, Hispania and the Danube. Among them were Pope St. Silvester, St. Nicholas of Myra, St. Eusebius of Caesarea (considered the Church's first historian), St. Athanasius and St. Alexander of Alexandria. Each bishop could bring up to two priests and three deacons, so the total attendance could have been as many as 1,800.

Many of the bishops had the marks of persecution on their faces – they had faced the threat of death for their faith and they were sensitive to details of doctrine. These were not wishy-washy men.

The council's main purpose was to quash the Arian heresy and settle the doctrine of the Trinity – that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were three divine persons in complete union. The term "Trinity" was not new, of course. Besides Jesus' references to it in Scripture, many early Church fathers had written about it from the 1st century onward.

Besides the Arian heresy, the council fathers wanted to settle the date for celebrating Easter, and they had to contend with various practical problems such as usury and self-castration.

On May 20, 325, the council opened. It is likely they had a draft from Bishop Hosius of Cordova to consider, as several creeds were already in use by Christians to identify themselves, and as a means of inclusion and recognition, especially at baptism. In Rome, for example, the Apostles' Creed was popular.

After being in session for an entire month, the council promulgated on June 19 the original Nicene Creed, written in Greek. All but two of the bishops, who were Arian sympathizers, approved the text. Those two bishops, as well as Arius, were excommunicated and exiled.

Besides the creed, the council decided that the date for Easter should be calculated uniformly and separate from the Jewish calendar, using the lunar calendar instead. But it took centuries for the calculations to be worked out in practice, and disagreement remains between Catholics in the West and Orthodox in the East.

The council also promulgated 20 new church laws, called canons. These included: prohibiting self-castration (which some had thought was a path to greater holiness), prohibiting young women from entering a cleric's home; requiring bishops to be ordained in the presence of at least three other bishops; prohibiting the removal of priests; forbidding usury among the clergy; determining the order of bishops, then priests, then deacons receiving Holy Communion; declaring invalid any baptisms done by heretics; acknowledging the special authority of the patriarchs of Rome, Alexandria and Antioch in their respective regions; and setting a minimum time frame for catechumens to prepare for baptism.

The long-term effects of the Council of Nicaea were significant. For the first time, leaders of the Church convened to agree on a doctrinal statement. In the short term, however, the council did not stamp out the heresy it was convened to discuss, and upheaval continued for some time even after Arius himself died.

It was only a few years after the Council of Nicaea that Arius returned to Constantinople and asked to be readmitted to the Church. But Arius did not renounce his heresy, so the Church refused. Emperor Constantine intervened in the dispute, setting a date for Arius to attend Mass and be forcibly readmitted to Communion. While he was waiting for Constantine to arrive so he could go into Mass, Arius stopped to relieve himself. His bowels burst out of his body, and he died instantly.

The Nicene Creed did not become a part of Mass until the early 6th century, when Patriarch Timothy of Constantinople started the practice to combat heresy. Its popularity spread throughout the Byzantine Empire, then to Spain, France and northern Europe. In 1114 Emperor Henry II, who had come to Rome for his coronation as Holy Roman Emperor, was surprised that they did not recite the creed. He was told that since Rome had never erred in matters of faith there was no need for the Romans to proclaim it at Mass. However, it was included in deference to the new emperor and has pretty much remained ever since – not at daily Mass, but on Sundays and feast days.

The Nicene Creed expressed what the early leaders of the Church found to be Biblical, traditional and orthodox in their Christian faith – a faith in Jesus Christ that we continue to proclaim 1,700 years later.

Sources: *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, "The Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Undivided Church" edited by Philip Schaff, David Bennett of *Ancient and Future Catholics*, Dr. Steve Brandt of *Columbia University* (New York), *Wikipedia*

<https://catholicnews herald.com/faith/101-news/faith/364-the-nicene-creed-and-its-origins>

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 7x7 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.grandmortorssydney.com.au

Open 7 days

**MINCHINBURY
Fruit Market**

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

Maltese Food

- Maltese Biscuits
- Three Hills Kuonserva
- Pastizzi & Ravioli
- Mayer Zalzett & Sugar
- Zalzett
- Kinnie

- * Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- * Huge Selection of General & Continental Groceries
- * Frozen Foods Section
- * Delicatessen in store



Phone: 9625 8021

Email: admin@minchiburyfruitmarket.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 Leandro Rae

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.



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

Scan to text Sav



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



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 Spiller on 02 9659 0900
(340 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill)



PN PROFESSIONAL TILING SERVICES

ABN: 84 808 977 129 Lic No: 315925C
All Tiling Work - Free Quote

No Job Too Small

Contact: **Peter Nguyen**

Director

Tel: (02) 9625 0135

Mobile: 0424 215 959

Email: pnprofessionaltiling@gmail.com

NDIS REGISTERED PROVIDER
REGISTRATION NO: 4-K3695U1

MAHAL CARE
HEALTH SERVICES

Care with Heart

OUR SERVICES

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

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

CLEANING WITH CARE

0485 701 454 0485 532 539

enquiries@mahalcleaningservices.com.au

www.mahalcleaningservices.com.au

RELIABLE & TRUSTED

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

100% WORK GUARANTEED



**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



0416 336 894

info@pressurepro.sydney

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

Sydney Pressure Pro

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



Support our advertisers