

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

The Lectionary omits all of Matthew 19 from the Sunday cycle and we read 20:1-16 today. The first reading (Isa 55:6-9) and Psalm 145(144) emphasise the compassion of God, who forgives, but their connection to the gospel reading is not at first obvious since there is no clear link between that parable and any other Scripture passage. However, the parable puts before us an example of how God's ways and thoughts differ from ours. Humans seem to have an innate sense of fairness that prompts objection at this parable; giving the same quantity of anything to those who have worked little as to those who have worked hard is not fair. It is equivalent to giving more to some than to others when each has done the same amount of work. So in the parable, paying those who worked only one hour the same as those who worked all day provokes understandable protests against this injustice from those all-day labourers. Most listeners sympathise with them too. This is no way to run a workforce, for if all were paid a full day's wage irrespective of the time worked, why would any turn up and work longer than they could get away with? On the other hand, whatever the circumstances of their coming to work, each worker is paid the standard living wage—for where is the justice in paying less than what is needed to live on? Such quibbling seems to miss the point, for the parable speaks of God's generosity rather than promoting a particular economic or social theory, and co-opting parables like this to support or reject any such theory is seriously misguided. God's kingdom it seems, is not built on human presumptions of what is deserved; it is built on God's incomprehensible justice that gives according to God's will. So, some may ask, why should I do the right thing, especially if God will treat me and the wrongdoer the same? Well, for a start, that betrays the presumption of being able to judge as if God, knowing others as God can know them. Beyond that, two answers may be given: firstly, you do the right thing because it is the right thing and you find it difficult to live with yourself when you don't (Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – or Blessed are those who make doing righteousness their food and drink, their way of living); secondly, you do it because it pleases the beloved, and you delight in the beloved's pleasure. A practical example might be found among those who dutifully attend to ageing parents. The one who devotes most time and effort may feel resentment for the duty performed when other siblings do not (or cannot) share in it equally, and even more so if all are treated equally in the will and eventual division of the estate. In this case we might ask, is filial duty performed merely as duty, or is it filial devotion enacted in love, however tiring it may sometimes be? Even so, it can be hard to escape the all-too-human feelings of entitlement emerging from our innate sense of fairness.

There is another aspect to this parable that may perhaps be read from the broader context in Matthew that reveals tension over the status of newcomers to the vineyard (an image that will be used much in the following weeks), that is, an aspect that relates to those who are not Jewish, who have not, as a people, belonged to salvation history from Abraham onward. The question that arises is: who are the ones who form the true Israel? Is it the children of Abraham according to the flesh, or those according to faith? While this question is not explicit in this parable, it was an important matter of contention in ancient times (as touched on previously from Paul's writings, on Sundays 19 and 20) and it will come to the fore more directly with next Sunday's gospel reading. But there are even more possible readings of it: within the mixed community of disciples itself, can those who are Jewish claim a primacy over the Gentile converts? Or even among the Jewish disciples alone, are later converts to be considered lesser than the earlier, or the earlier as more deserving than the later? According to today's parable, the timing of one's arrival in the vineyard is irrelevant, and any concern over primacy is merely an aspect of human perceptions of importance or entitlement. It reveals the folly of trying to subject God to our expectations.

Mass Times

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

Masses of Devotion

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

Exposition + Benediction

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

Reconciliation

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

Sacraments

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

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>) <i>Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039</i>

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

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. **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.**

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

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

cf Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. 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, Cristine Carger

Remembrances:

Mario Sarlabus

Death Anniversary

Salomie Joseph

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 Nalapo, Charlie Busuttill, Imelda Vinluan, Babies with Blister disease Mary Bormate, Carrie Conolly

Thanksgiving

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

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

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



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.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- New Parish Hall
- New Office and Meeting Room
- Air-conditioned Church

TARGET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED

\$1,000,000.00

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

\$264,639.00

CASH NEEDED TO BE RAISED TO MEET OUR TARGET

\$735,361.00

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 14 September to 18 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	Completed Items this period – Piling – Electrical rough in of services below lower ground slab – Hydraulic rough in of services below lower ground slab – 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
Activities being completed this week onsite – Pour RW3 footings – Block delivery – Sand, cement and lime delivery – Agg line and Geo Fabric delivery – Build block walls – RW3 blockwork inspection 18/9	



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

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal 2026:

Thank you for caring for our spiritual fathers

We thank you for your compassion, for the money raised for our Bishop's Father's Day Appeal, it will provide much-needed care and support for those who have dedicated their lives to serving our community. Your generosity and love ensure they receive the care, comfort and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives.

If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal.

Thank you.

Annual African Mass 2026: 27 September

The African Catholic communities of the Diocese of Parramatta, in collaboration with the Diocesan Office for Migrant Chaplaincies and the Nigerian and Ghanaian Chaplaincies, warmly invite you to the African Mass 2026. Join us on Sunday 27 September from 1pm–5pm at Mary Queen of the Family Parish (St Patrick's Church), 51–59 Allawah Street, Blacktown, for a vibrant celebration of faith, culture and community. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided following Mass. All are welcome.

Major Pilgrim Relic & Exhibition of St Carlo Acutis: 28-30 September

The First-Class Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis will be at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 28 to 30 September. Come and pray before the Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis and experience the Vatican International Exhibition of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World. The Major Pilgrim Relic will be housed in the Chapel for personal prayer and veneration throughout the visit. All welcome. Find the full program on parracatholic.org/events/relic-exhibition-st-carlo-acutis

Bishop Vincent Presents: Kim Daniels on 'AI, Pope Leo and the future of human dignity'

Join us on 13 October at 6 pm to hear from one of the Church's foremost experts on Catholic Social Thought and its importance in the age of artificial intelligence. A lawyer by training, Ms Daniels served for 10 years as a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication until 2026, and during the Synod on Synodality from 2021-2024 was an expert participant and coordinator of the study group that focused on the Church's mission in the digital age. Registration is essential, visit parracatholic.org/kim-daniels

Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying Formation course: 17 October

Are you currently taking Communion to the sick and dying in the Diocese of Parramatta? If so, please join the Office for Worship for a day of ongoing formation to further your knowledge and understanding of this important topic. Saturday 17 Oct from 9:30am – 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch provided. For more information and to register before 14 Oct at parracatholic.org/events/ministry-of-communion-formation/

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary

St Madeline's Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst

Paralegal & Compliance Support

Diocese of Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

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 ignite.stjohn23@gmail.com or

DM on @ignite_sj23

CRL (Community of the Risen Lord)

Rojith de Silva 0405 9563210

Nimeshi Fernando 0417 101009

YFC (Youth for Christ)

Dominic Lim 0468 826253 Australia

Ronan Limguangco 0478 629629 International



**Young at 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



A NEW WAY TO SERVE TOGETHER!

Attention to all our ministry members.

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



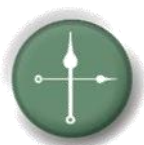
Manage replacements when needed

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
Volunteer Scheduling and Service Planning

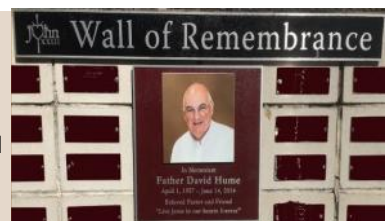


COLUMBARIUM

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!



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

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



September Calendar

Mon	21	<i>Saint Michael (F)</i> 8:30am - Mass
Tues	22	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Novena Prayer <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	23	<i>Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
Thurs	24	9:15am - Mass
Fri	25	9:15am - Mass
Sat	26	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	27	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

RAFFLE TICKETS

Please don't forget to return your raffle stubs so they can go in the raffle draw for the

4th October 2026.

Thank you.

WE PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPT - 6PM

THURSDAY, 24 SEPT - 6PM

FRIDAY, 25 SEPT - 6PM



The YAH seniors were at it again!!

Our Father's Day celebration lunch at the Worker's Sports club was well attended last Thursday. It was a pleasure to have Fr Barth join us for lunch that was appreciated by all.

**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.

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

Sunday Mass Obligation

Do you understand the Sunday Mass obligation? Do you know a Catholic who doesn't like to go to Mass? Do you understand why it is a Mortal sin to miss Sunday Mass without grave reason? In our modern society, faithfully attending Mass seems to have become an act many Catholics view as optional. The teaching of the Church has never changed. To get directly to the point, it is not optional. Faithful Catholics are obligated to attend Mass each and every Sunday.

But we should not view the word 'obligation' as a bad thing. Going to Mass is not a punishment, it's not a chore to get out of the way so you can go to the movies or out to brunch. The Mass is celebrated at Christ's instruction, "Do this in memory of Me." If we all take a moment to understand why participating in Mass is so important, why skipping Mass is a mortal sin, maybe 'obligation' will no longer seem like such an imposing word. Understanding why the Mass is so important is the first step to loving the Mass. And when you come to love the Mass, going to church on Sunday no longer feels like an "I have to," but instead becomes an "I need, I want to."

The Precepts of the Church

Before going further, it is important to note what the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us about Catholic Mass attendance.

he first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the Mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The second precept ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy. (CCC 2042)

The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." "The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day."

The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin. (CCC. 2180 and 2181)

The Code of Canon Law, the legal code of Christ's Church, states:

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to assist at Mass. They are also to abstain from such work or business that would inhibit the worship to be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the due relaxation of mind and body.

The obligation of assisting at Mass is satisfied wherever Mass is celebrated in a Catholic rite either on a holy day itself or on the evening of the previous day. (Can 1247, 1248)

Both the code of Canon Law and the Catechism clearly state the obligation. There was some general teaching prior to Vatican II that one had to be present for the offertory through reception of Holy Communion to fulfill the obligation. However this is not a part of the canon and the faithful are to participate in the complete Mass in order to fulfill the Sunday obligation.

Some consider the formal language of the Catechism and Canon Law to be somewhat inaccessible, or others may read the Catechism and rebuke what is said simply because they think there are "too many rules." Of course, rules are in place for a reason – even when it comes to driving, where the seemingly mundane rule of staying inside the painted lines has an enormous effect. So we can easily acknowledge that the rules about something so much more important – our faith – were not thrown together randomly, but have great meaning. Beyond the precept itself, we can also look at why it is so critical, and better understand the importance of participating in Mass every Sunday.

The Third Commandment: Remember to Keep Holy the Lord's Day

When asked why Catholics go to Mass on Sunday, the third commandment is quite often given as an answer. This commandment is definitely not where the reason we are obligated to participate in Mass ends, but it is a good place to start. In the earliest days of Christianity, Sunday replaced the Sabbath as the Lord's Day because it was on Sunday that Jesus rose from the dead, Sunday on which He appeared to two of His disciples and broke bread with them:

"When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it,

and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Lk 24:30-35)

It was from that first day onwards that the faithful began to celebrate the memorial of Christ's sacrifice and rising, and still today, it is in the breaking of the bread that we recognize Jesus. The Second Vatican Council also recognizes that Sunday as the foremost day to celebrate the Eucharist was handed down from the day of the resurrection:

"Apostolic tradition of the Church is, from the very day of the resurrection of Christ, to celebrate the Pasch every eight days, on the day which is called the day of the Lord" ("Sacrosanctum Concilium", 106)

The First Commandment: You Shall Not Have Strange Gods Before Me

The third commandment is often mentioned as explanation for the importance of attending Mass on Sunday, but the first commandment is just as crucial. In fact if the first commandment is followed, abiding to the third will come naturally.

There are those who choose to willfully skip Mass, or those who 'drag' themselves to Mass but do not want to be there. The question is, "why?" Why don't they want to be there, sharing in Christ's passion, sharing in His resurrection? Quite often, it is because they feel they have something better or more interesting to do. Watch a sports game, go shopping, paint the shed, read a book, watch a movie, take a nap, get a head start on work related tasks for the week. The focus is put on these things, and not on God.

It's not worshiping a golden statue, but the result is the same. When these things take precedence over Christ, the false gods of the material world are being put before Our Lord. It is not to say that ambition in career, shopping, entertainment, and keeping up the house are evil in themselves. The problem is when one allows them to become more important than God, when one willfully chooses these in place of God, including in place of participation in the Mass, the core of our faith. If you find yourself asking if you really have to go to Mass, change the question and ask yourself why you aren't excited to go to Mass? In the early days of the church – and in some countries still – faithful people could be jailed or even killed for celebrating Mass. So why do we allow worldly entertainments to compete with our love for God and the Eucharist?

The Words of the Saints

The perfect answer to the "do what you feel like doing" mentality of modern society is to seek inspiration in the words of the saints, who understood the importance of holy Mass. For the most part, they too lived in societies where materialism was a distraction to those around them. Yet these saints had a love for God that helped them to overcome temptations, and even their own past actions, to be more fully devoted to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The writings of the saints would be a good place to begin to find instructional and inspirational words of those holy people who lived before us.

The Intention of the Faithful

It is important to note that one's will is also factor here. The church acknowledges a difference between missing Mass for a grave reason or for something over which you had no control, and the act of willfully choosing not to go to Mass. The former is not a mortal sin, the latter is. In the Apostolic letter *Dies Domini*, Pope John Paul II instructed those who are prevented from participating in the Mass in the following way:

Finally, the faithful who, because of sickness, disability or some other serious cause, are prevented from taking part, should as best they can unite themselves with the celebration of Sunday Mass from afar, preferably by means of the readings and prayers for that day from the Missal, as well as through their desire for the Eucharist. (*Dies Domini*, Pope John Paul II)

There are several books available to help one understand the Mass more fully and deepen their love for the celebration. *Loving the Holy Mass* is a great place to start and *If Your Mind Wanders at Mass* and *Heart of the Mass* are great resources for any Catholic. For more on the Mass, check out our extensive Liturgy and Mass section.

<http://www.aquinasandmore.com/catholic-articles>

Climate airconditioning

DESIGN // INSTALLATIONS // SERVICE // REPAIRS

0400 841 601

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.

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

CHRYSLIS Law Group

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

Antony-John's Consulting

Christian Psychologist
0426 950 060
info@antonyjohnconsulting.com
www.antonyjohnconsulting.com

SMICK plumbing services

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

Christian Colouring Books

The Lilies and the Birds
The Stormy Sea

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

move REALTY

Your local real estate agents

SELL | BUY | RENT

02 9631 1101 **moverealty.au**

Sonic Shuttle Airport Drop And Pickup

Our 7x7 Airport Drop and Pickup Service arrives 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**

United RE

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)

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.

MINCHINBURY Fruit Market

Open 7 days

1039 Great Western Hwy, Minchibury NSW 2770

Your Local Grocer Since 1960

Maltese Food

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

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

PN PROFESSIONAL TILING SERVICES

ABN : 84 808 977 129 Lic No: 315925C

All Tiling Work & Bathroom Renovations

Contact: Peter Nguyen
0424 215 959

Email: pnprofessionaltiling@gmail.com

MAHAL CARE

NDIS REGISTERED PROVIDER
REGISTRATION NO: 4-K3695U1

Care with Heart

OUR SERVICES

- Personal Care Support
- Travel Support
- 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

MAHAL CLEANING SERVICES

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

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

MINCHINBURY Fruit Market

Phone: 9625 8021
Email: admin@minchiburyfruitmarket.com.au

Like on facebook

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

PRESSURE PRO

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

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

0416 336 894
info@pressurepro.sydneypressurepro.com.au
sydneypressurepro
Sydney Pressure Pro