

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 readings today follow thematically from last Sunday's gospel parable, and we find another appearance of the vineyard that so often represents the kingdom of heaven in parables and sayings. The first reading (Ezek 18:25-28) echoes the protest against God for being unjust. This time it seems to be provoked by God's willingness to remit sin. Such an objection boils down to vexation that God does not behave like people. Too often the human desire is to punish, by which it is felt that justice is achieved, making things right by somehow balancing the books. But such so-called justice is no more than exacting a form of revenge, however righteous the vengeance seems. It may be considered as a form of repayment, for even if the offender does not or cannot repair the damage done, then inflicting punishment in equal measure allows the aggrieved to feel that a balance of sorts has been restored. However, by its nature this can only leave each party diminished and it does not truly make things right again; it may be called justice because it "evens the score" but it actually perverts righteousness (which makes things right). God's response instead, according to Ezekiel, is in effect to say to the repentant or converted sinner, "You got to the right place in the end, which is what matters, and that makes things right." And to the formerly upright: "You knew what was right and yet you chose to go wrong." The plea in today's entrance antiphon, if used, prepares for this reading: in it Azariah pleads that we be treated according to God's mercy and not according to our wrongs, that is, for God to act in a way contrary to the human instinct for justice. This is further picked up in the opening prayer, which acknowledges divine omnipotence is manifested "above all by pardoning and showing mercy", for God is free of humanity's impulsive sense of fairness, and God is free to act according to what is good in itself. This is not unrelated to the Kenotic Hymn in the second reading (Phil 2:1-11) that fitted well in the recent feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, but this time it includes the preceding exhortation to humility. The hymn praises the very humility typified by Christ, who demonstrates God's freedom to act foolishly according to human reckoning by embracing death on the cross.

The gospel parable (Matt 21:28-32) is the first in a series of seemingly anti-Jewish selections from Matthew, for which we must remember the context: it is after Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of what led directly to his crucifixion. These parables are all given in the Temple. Here Jesus contends with the religious leaders, against whom these parables are directed. This becomes abundantly clear in the chapter's final two verses (v.45-46), which are not included in the Sunday Lectionary. A question is put to the chief priests and elders as if seeking a legal opinion: if a father asks two sons to go work in his vineyard, and the first says he will not and the second that he will, but each rethinks and does the opposite of what he said, then which of them does the father's will? Without dispute it is the first son; it is better to repent than renege. The ordering of the sons seems unusual since elsewhere the first usually represents Jews, the second the Gentiles. Indeed, Augustine in his only known reference to this parable inverts the order (De consensu evangelistarum, 2.70.130). But the given order may reflect a Jewish tradition, found also in the Talmud, in which God offered the Law (Torah) first to Gentiles; the Jews were offered it last, and were the only ones to accept it. In this case, Jesus, or Matthew's community, is accusing Jewish leaders of renegeing now that the time of the kingdom has come. The early Church was grappling with this, as we previously saw Paul lamenting (Sunday 19). In the language of the parable, Gentiles are repenting and so entering the vineyard, the kingdom. But we should pay attention also to the constant warning: if you do not produce its fruit, it will be taken from you. None can claim a right to it by belonging to a particular group.

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/>

RAFFLE TICKETS

Not long to go.

Please don't forget to return your raffle stubs by the 3rd of October so they can go in the raffle draw for the 4th October 2026.

Thank you.

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

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading *Ezekiel 18:25-28*

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 24:4-9*

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he

Second Reading *Philippians 2:1-5*

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *John 10:27*

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. 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

Mary Zahra, Lydia Miguel, Cristine Carger

Remembrances:

Zenaida Amio, Mario Sarlabus,

Death Anniversary

Manuel Barcelon, Patrick Cherry

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 Leitao, 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 Dadivas, 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 21:28-32*

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.



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 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 – Pour RW3 footings – Block delivery—RW3 – Sand, cement and lime delivery – Agg line and Geo Fabric delivery – Final Trim footings Contracts Let – MHF Termite Protection – Australian Scaffold – ACM Block, Pavers & Stone	Activities being completed this week onsite – Build block walls—RW3 – Steel reinforcement – Footing, Pile Caps & LG Slab – Termite protection – Structural Engineer Inspection—23/09 – CA Inspection (Footings) - 24/09 – Pour Core fill block work—24/09 – Pour LG slab—25/09



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	Tangunan	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	Paguinto	Available	Fernandes	Fernandes

"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

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

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.

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



**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

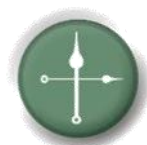
Receive reminders

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

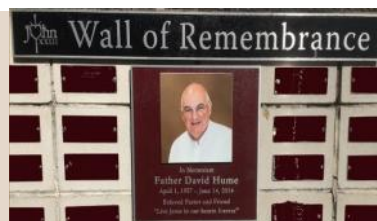


COLUMBARIUM

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

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

September Calendar

Mon	28	8:30am - Mass
Tues	29	<i>Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael (F)</i> 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Novena Prayer <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed	30	<i>Saint Jerome (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
October		
Thurs	1	<i>Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Fri	2	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels (M)</i> 9:15am - Mass
Sat	3	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
Sun	27	7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

CALLING ALL YOUTHS YEAR 6 -12

We are excited to share that SJ XXIII Blaze Youth in collaboration with Mary Immaculate Youth are planning a "Living in Christ" Youth Retreat for young people in Year 6 to 12 on **Saturday, 12 December 2026**.

We are currently gathering **expressions of interest** to help us with our planning and to gauge how many young people are interested in attending.

If your child is interested in attending, please scan the QR Code and complete the form.

Kindly forward any questions to Ellena on 0478685191.



God Bless,
Blaze Youth



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Dinner Dance organised by the Mother of Perpetual Help Novena Group.

A special thank you to Macy and Melva for organising such a wonderful evening filled with delicious food, live music and fellowship.

Thanks to the generosity and support of our parish community, the event raised an amazing \$5,300 towards the parish. Thank you all for your generous support and for making the evening such a great success!

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP PRAYER GROUP ST JOHN XXIII PARISH DINNER FOR A CAUSE A TRIBUTE TO ALL FATHERS



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

Differences Between the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds

In *"The Need for a Creed,"* we discussed how Christianity uniquely prioritizes creeds. Christianity is a religion of the Word, the Word that created the world and the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. Fidelity to God's Word consists in part of echoing this Word in our confession of faith. Indeed, Christian faith is first a gift or grace we receive. They are not tools we wield. Submission to fixed formula regards the givenness of faith. Creeds then hold us accountable to the Word of God. They hold our minds still before the Word so as to conform us to the truth.

Precedents to the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds

When one studies early Christian creeds, one is struck immediately by two things: how many there are and how similar they are. Creeds were used by the early Christians in two main ways. First, in a predominantly illiterate society, memorization and recitation of creeds allowed teachings to be fixed in an oral rather than textual way. In preparation for baptism, catechumens would hear a series of lectures on a creed-like summary of the Christian faith and would then be required to recite the creed during the ceremony. A famous example of these lectures is the so-called Catechetical Lectures of St. Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386). From his lectures, scholars have attempted to reconstruct the creed that his catechumens would have been expected to recite.

In the second place, creeds were used to identify and interpret Scripture in the context of false teachers and false scriptures. We stand on the other side of a defined canon of Scripture, which occurred at the end of the fourth century, and two-thousand years of doctrinal development. You can go buy the Bible in our local bookstore. We can consult the Catechism for an understanding of what Scripture means.

But in the earliest Church they were still discerning which writings were authentic and which ones were heretical counterfeits. They were having arguments about the meaning of Scripture that would eventually lead to the clarity we now take for granted. During these uncertain times, bishops and priests would appeal to what they called the "Rule of Faith" to distinguish truth from error. This was a creed-like summary of the plot of Scripture. The writers said apostles themselves gave it. For a well-known example of the "Rule of Faith," look at Book I, Chapter 10 of *Against Heresies* by St. Irenaeus (c. 130-200), the Bishop of Lyons.

When we look at the two most well-known and oft-used creeds of western Christianity—the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed—we see these two functions of the earlier creeds or rules.

The Apostles' Creed

Although in 404 AD Tyrranius Rufinus perpetuated the legend that the apostles themselves wrote the Apostles' Creed, most scholars agree it is an eighth century expansion of the second century baptismal creed of Rome called the "Roman Symbol." Its primary usage was as a baptismal creed, a function it retains to this day. At the same time St. Ambrose (339-397) and St. Augustine (354-430) urged their flocks to recite daily the "Symbol of Faith." This devotional recitation is part of the reason it heads the Rosary.

He Descended into Hell

The Nicene Creed is more expansive than the Apostles' Creed, but the latter does contain two assertions that do not have equivalents in the Nicene Creed. The first is the statement that after Jesus died, he "descended into hell." This phrase relates to 1 Peter 3:18-19 which states:

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison."

Two biblical terms translate into English as "hell." The first is *hades* which is the place where the just who died before Christ went as they awaited redemption. The second is *Gehenna* which is the final punishment for the damned. When the Apostles' Creed states that Jesus "descended into hell" it is referring to this first usage of "hell." Thus, the Catechism clarifies the meaning of this statement as follows:

"Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 633

The Communion of the Saints

The second confession is belief "in the communion of the saints." This notion concerns the way in which the Church in its three states—Militant, Penitent, and Triumphant—shares a profound spiritual bond through her head, Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures overwhelmingly conceive of a saving relationship with God as a matter of being in a covenant with him. We owe a great debt to Dr. Scott Hahn for showing that a "covenant" is an establishment of a family relationship. Throughout the Scriptures, God consistently treats us as his children and works to save us by creating new families. In Genesis 1:26, God creates humankind in his "image and likeness." This is the same language used just a few chapters later that describes Adam's son Seth (Genesis 5:3). When God purposes to bless all the families of the earth, he promises Abraham and Sarah that they will have a miraculous child (Genesis 15:4). When God rescues the Israelites from Egypt, he calls them to be his firstborn son (Exodus 4:22).

This theme of being members of God's household and family climaxes in St. Paul's description of us as "adopted sons of God" who are heirs of our Father's house (see Galatians 3:23-4:7). This means that we must "love one another" (John 13:24) and recognize that "we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" (Romans 12:5).

God does not call us to a merely individual or personal relationship to him. Rather, God desires a familial relationship with his children. He intends for us to connect with him and with each other. We should love and cherish our fellow Christians like we love our own flesh and blood. This is our belief "in the communion of the saints." Through Jesus Christ, the Church is a spiritual family and, like a family, can share prayers and benefits.

The Nicene Creed

At the heart of the Nicene Creed is the confession of Jesus Christ as consubstantial with the Father. In order to understand some of the major differences of the Nicene Creed from the Apostles' Creed, we need to understand the prior debate over the identity of Jesus Christ.

Heresy of Arianism

The Nicene Creed was first articulated in 325 at the first ecumenical Council of Nicaea in response to the heresy of Arianism. The major question was the interpretation of Scripture. This is why we recite the Nicene Creed after the readings and homily at Mass.

Arius, a popular priest in Alexandria, articulated the heresy of Arianism. He looked at Scriptures like John 3:16, which refers to the Son of God as "begotten," and Colossians 1:15 which refers to Christ as the "firstborn of creation," and concluded that Jesus was not fully divine. His argument went something like this:

1. The fundamental quality that distinguishes God from creation is eternity
2. The Bible describes the Son as "begotten" and "the firstborn"
3. To be "begotten" or "born" means to come into existence at a point in time
4. Therefore, the Son is not God.

Arius did think that Jesus had as much divinity as possible for a creature, and so was the closest creature to God. But strictly speaking he was fundamentally like us creatures, not God. On Arius' view, God first created the Son and then the Son created the rest of creation.

Heresy of Gnosticism

In the background to this controversy was the Church's earlier condemnation of the heresy of Gnosticism. Among other things, Gnostics believed that the cosmos consisted of a series of degradations of divinity. Divinity is pure spirit and knowledge. At the opposite end of the spectrum is the material world, our world. For Gnostics, material creation, being an extreme degradation of divinity, is evil. One of the principal problems with Gnosticism, then, is that it denied that God created the world. Accordingly, they also denied the humanity of Jesus Christ, even as they did see him as the one who could lead us back to the spiritual world.

As the Church countered Gnosticism, she realized that if the material world was not directly willed by God according to his perfect wisdom, then there would be

reason to doubt its goodness. Arianism, in seeing Jesus as a kind of degradation of God and the material world as created by a creature, posited distance between God's perfect wisdom and the creation of the world and therefore reopened the door to Gnosticism.

Jesus is Eternally Begotten of and Consubstantial with the Father

To refute Arius' view that if Jesus is "begotten" he cannot be equally divine with the Father, the Nicene Creed added several qualifying phrases. The first is "born before all ages" or, sometimes translated, "eternally begotten." By this, the Nicene Fathers intended to indicate that the Son's begottenness is not an event in time, but an eternal relationship of the Son to the Father. Here, the Son eternally has the divine nature "from the Father" and is thus "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God."

Furthermore, the Creed adds that Jesus is "begotten, not made." The controversy made distinction between "making" and "begetting." If you "make" something like a computer, it does not share your nature. But if you "beget," you give your very nature to an offspring. If the Son is "begotten" of the divine Father, then the Son must be of the same nature as the Father, in the same way that if you "beget" children they are just as human as you are. Hence, Jesus is "begotten, not made," meaning he has the same nature as the Father.

As if it wasn't clear enough, the Creed then adds that Jesus Christ is "consubstantial with the Father." This term means that Jesus' substance or being is identical to that of the Father. In other words, Jesus Christ possesses all the qualities of divinity like omnipotence, omniscience, eternality, aseity, immutability, omnipresence, and so on. But, as we just noted when we discussed his eternal begottenness, Jesus has these qualities "from the Father."

Finally, the Nicene Creed adds "through him all things were made." This is another way of identifying Jesus with the Father who earlier the Creed asserted is the "maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible."

The Holy Spirit's Procession

The other way in which the Nicene Creed expands the Apostles' Creed is its confession of belief in the Holy Spirit. The original Creed of Nicaea ended with "I believe in the Holy Spirit." Because Arianism resurfaced almost immediately after the Council of Nicaea, the Council of Constantinople happened in 381. This Council both reaffirmed the Creed of Nicaea and expanded it to address denials of the divinity of the Holy Spirit. The statements after "I believe in the Holy Spirit" that we say today, were added at the Council of Constantinople. Technically speaking, the Creed we know as the Nicene Creed is the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed.

The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed makes clear that we are to worship the Holy Spirit ("adored and glorified") in the same way as the Father and the Son. After this, it specifies the relationship of the Spirit to the Father and the Son. Originally, it said that the Spirit only proceeded from the Father alone. Later, and not without controversy, the phrase "and the Son" was added to the Creed. This indicates that the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. What makes the Father the Father is that he possesses the divine nature as source; he does not receive it from another. The Son differs from the Father in that the Son receives the divine nature from the Father. What distinguishes the Spirit from the Son is that the Spirit receives the divine nature from the Father and the Son.

Conclusion

The creeds were never intended to be exhaustive catalogue of Christian doctrine. Rather, they specify the core of our faith and guide us in the interpretation of Scripture. We explain them. They act as a basis for the elaboration of the whole of our faith. In the same way, contradictions of the creeds occur not only through direct denial of its statements, but also by discerning if certain positions undermine the core confessions of the creeds.

https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/differences-between-the-nicene-and-apostles-creeds?srsltid=AU7gn4UQcIS2B0eWuJGrLOrOZJyeBj_2yaXRACe-KbLjbm3kIk_B3T

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

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



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



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

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

Christian Colouring Books



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

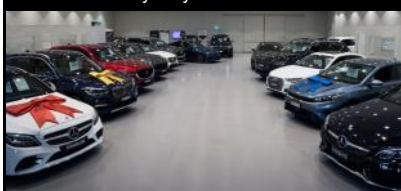


Your local real estate agents

SELL | BUY | RENT

02 9631 1101 moverealty.au

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.grandmotorssydney.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

Call 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.

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 Kuonsu
- Pastizzi & Ravioli
- Mayer Zalza & Sugli
- Zalzett
- Kinnle

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



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



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

NDIS REGISTERED PROVIDER
REGISTRATION NO: 4-K369501

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

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

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

Support our advertisers