

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.

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*

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours
Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm
Office Contacts
☎(02) 8883 5981
⚲ 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768
✉ PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768

CLERGY

Parish Priest: Fr Jolly Chacko
jolly@john23rd.org.au
0417 541 637 (*emergency only*)
Asst 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:

Maintenance issues: David Gorkic
maintenance@john23rd.org.au
Columbarium queries:
columbarium@john23rd.org.au

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

AMBROSE EARLY LEARNING

⚲ 160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
☎ (02) 9852 0585
celcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY

⚲ 49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood, NSW
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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

All Saints is not the feast of a small elite but of a multitude. The three readings and the responsorial psalm tell us who the saints are, who we are and how we come to resemble them. The first reading comes from a book written for Christians under pressure, who were tempted to wonder whether faithfulness was worth the cost. John is shown the servants of God sealed on their foreheads, marked as belonging to God. He then sees a vast crowd from every nation, race, people and language, standing before the throne in white robes with palms in their hands. The elders explain that these are people who have come through great distress and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. The image is paradoxical, since blood does not ordinarily cleanse anything, and that is the point. Holiness is not a personal achievement, but a gift received through the self-giving love of Christ. The saints are not those who never struggled but those who trusted Christ through the struggle. The diversity of the crowd also speaks to the Church in a country as multicultural as Australia, for God's family is not defined by a single culture or a narrow standard of perfection. The psalm (numbered 23 in the Jerusalem Bible and 24 in Hebrew numbering) proclaims that the earth and all who live on it belong to the Lord, then asks who may climb his mountain and stand in his holy place. The answer, those with clean hands and a pure heart who seek God's face, finds its fulfilment in John's vision, where cleansed people now stand in joy.

The second reading turns the usual picture of sainthood around. John writes that we are already children of God, and that this is not a metaphor but who we are, given by the Father's love. What we shall be has not yet been revealed, but when Christ appears we shall be like him. We do not become God's children by becoming holy. We are held in the Father's love, and holiness is the fruit of that belonging. Everyone who has this hope purifies themselves, because hope shapes how we live now. The Beatitudes then read less as a list of lofty ideals and more as a portrait of the saints. The poor in spirit, the gentle, those who mourn, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and the persecuted are not superheroes but people who have stopped relying on themselves and made room for God. Jesus says "blessed" rather than "successful", for the world measures worth by achievement and comfort, while the Beatitudes measure it by trust and mercy. Each promise points to the destination Revelation describes: the kingdom of heaven, comfort, mercy and the sight of God. The Beatitudes describe the pilgrim's path up the mountain of the psalm, and the saints are those who have already arrived.

A practical example is close at hand. Many of us can name someone whose faith shaped our own: a grandparent who prayed the rosary at the kitchen table, a neighbour who quietly visited the sick, a teacher patient with a struggling child, or a parent who kept going through hard years. None of them is likely to be canonised, yet they belong to the multitude John saw. They are not lost to us but part of the communion that surrounds us each time we gather at the altar. The feast also poses a question: if the crowd is made up of ordinary people who trusted Christ, is holiness a realistic vocation for each of us? The readings suggest that it is, though it asks for faithfulness in small things, honesty in our dealings, forgiveness at home and generosity toward those in need. The image of washed robes reminds us that we begin again whenever we fall, and that the mercy of the Lamb is greater than our failure.

MASS TIMES

Mon	8:30am
Tues-Fri	9:15am
Sat	9.00am, 6pm Vigil
Sun	7:30am 9am 10:30am 6pm
2nd Sat	7:30pm Indonesian Mass

DEVOTION AND PRAYERS

Tues	7:00pm Rosary | novena prayers (*Church*)
1st Tues	7.30pm Novena Mass *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
1st Fri	7:30pm Novena Mass *Sacred Heart of Jesus*
Thurs	7:00pm Lectio Divina
Fri	6.30pm *Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group (office)* Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039

EXPOSITION + BENEDICTION

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

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation *After the weekday masses*
Sat after 9am mass to 10.30am
5:15 - 5:45pm before the Vigil Mass or upon request
Baptism *by appointment*
Sun 12pm Baptism

SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Blessings during masses
1st Sun Birthday celebrants
3rd Sun Wedding anniversary

HOMEBOUND?

Homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion please contact the parish office or 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

Please inform the acolyte before mass if you are gluten intolerant so that you may still receive communion with a low gluten host.

JOIN & BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome pack at the church foyer or scan
Be part of our mailing list,
Communications@john23rd.org.au

Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

First Reading — *Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14*

I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm — *Ps 23:1-6*

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord? and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

Second Reading — *1 John 3:1-3*

We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God, but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation — *Matthew 11:28*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel — *Matthew 5:1-12*

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.



Hall | Office Project

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for your many blessings to our parish and to each of us.
We pray for your guidance and wisdom as we 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 XX111, 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/StJohnXXIIIPGSG
- can QR Code

Thank you for your support.
Parish fund raising, finance, Building committees and Fr. Jolly

SBS Secure Building Solutions — WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT 5 October to 10 October

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

- Install Agg line and Waterproof – RW3
- Back fill – RW3
- Formwork and steel reinforcement - Columns
- Pour Columns & BW1 core fill – 02/10 (Pending weather)
- Block Delivery

Activities being completed this week onsite

- Install Stage 1 Scaffold
- Install formwork GF Slab
- Reinforcement steel delivery
- Electrical service pathways
- Hydraulic & drainage rough-in
- Start GF Slab reinforcement







Raffle Draw – Congratulations to Our Winners!

Once again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who generously supported our fundraising event during our Feast Day. Your generosity, kindness, and enthusiasm helped make this event a wonderful success and will be a big contribution for our Hall Project.

Congratulations to all our lucky raffle winners!

All winners have been notified, and we hope you enjoy your prizes!

- 1st Prize – Return Trip for 2 to India
  Winner - Myra Estrera
- 2nd Prize – Return Trip for 2 to New Zealand
  Winner - Taylor Coutinho
- 3rd Prize – 65" Smart TV
  Winner - Josephine Dales
- Consolation Prize – Apple iPad
  Winner - Nimba
- Consolation Prize – Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise
  Winner - Josephine Dales

Thank you once again for your generous support, for coming together as a community, and for helping us move closer to achieving our parish goals.

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 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					
NOV	3	10	17	24	
	Barnouti	Tina B.	Meena B	Jacob	
DEC	1	8	15	22	29
	Shalini	Paguinto	D'Cunha	Fernandes	Fernandes
JAN	5	12	19	26	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	Cayas	
FEB	2	9	16	23	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	*Available*	

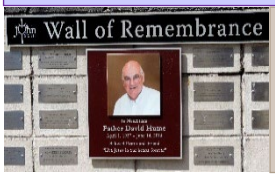


"A family that prays together, stays together"

If you want to be included in the roster for the Rosary statue, please contact: Techie Sarlabus *techie.sarlabus@gmail.com* or Melva Paguinto *emcipi85@yahoo.com.au*

COLUMBARIUM
Considering purchasing a niche? Spaces are still available. These are open to parishioners, families, friends & our neighbouring parishes.
Please contact the Parish Office.





MEMORIAL WALL
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

Diocesan News

Music Workshop for Advent - November 5

All musicians in the diocese are invited to attend the Office for Worship's upcoming music workshop on November 5th.
Mr Eric Grella will focus this workshop on choosing music that is suitable for the liturgical season of Advent and will be present to answer any questions you may have. To register
https://parracatholic.org/events/music-workshop-for-advent/#register

It will be held on Thursday 5th Nov at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre from 7pm-8:30pm.

Faith FEED Echo - November 6

Looking for a space that brings together creativity, music and meaningful conversations? Searching for a place where gifts among those in their 20s, 30s and 40s can be celebrated and empowered?
TFF ECHO brings together creativity, music and meaningful conversations that echo the God who works in us, among us and around us!
Register for TFF ECHO – an experience from The Faith Feed. Food, drink and live music provided! Doors open at 7pm with live music from a 7:30pm start.
Note: This is an 18+ event only.
Register online at: The Faith Feed ECHO (6 November) | Diocese of Parramatta

Diocesan Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass - November 15

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 15 November at 2:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.
Fr Fernando Montano VG, will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by afternoon at the Cathedral Hall.
Couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary will receive a certificate.
Couples and their families are warmly invited to light refreshments in the Cathedral Hall after Mass.
Please register online at: Diocesan Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass (15 November) | Diocese of Parramatta
You can also register via email mailto:marriage@parracatholic.orgor phone 0408 233 478, please include full names, years of marriage and number of family attending.

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

Pansy Lobo, Nico Valencia, Sonia Oedejo, Mercedes Munoz, Evelyn Datoc, Mary Kelly, Irlande Zuel

Remembrances:

Rose Lily Leonardo, Warlito Leonardo

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 Leitao, Brendan Prideaux, Myrna Manalili, Isagani Ocampo, Raymond Lanzona, Carlo Bueno Margaret Harrison, Marcelino Matteazi, Troy James, Lucas Colleta Perla Magculang, Mary Phillips, Elizabeth Langley, Charlie Busuttil Bev Osborn, Barbara Thompson, Manuel Sarris, Jonathan Gemin Rosie Carbonel, Cindy Dadivas, Cathie Christie, Joshua McCarroll Dr Bronwyn Andrews, Florentina Elisura, Victor Pons, Bev Lewis, Elsie Knapp, Fausto Bayot, Zoey Illic, Mary Bormate, Ryan Dixon Elizabeth Candame, Dudley Francis, Jude Newnes, Renado Naldo Mr Thomas, Josie Lewis, Hilary Regan, Zena Samar, Louise Smith Carlo Dominic Benesa, Gerald Simbulan, Rosanna John Pellissery Christina Properzi, Marilyn Nalapo, Imelda Vinluan, Peter McArdle, Ksenija Bosnic, Lenka Olivier Talija, Jerwin McCarron, Helen West Carrie Conolly, Emma Matoza, Maria Romeo, Babies w/ Blister disease

Thanksgiving

Carlo Reodique

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

Mothers who Pray for their Children

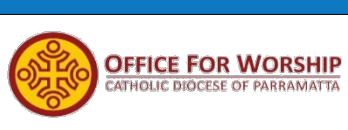
Mothers Who Pray for their Children Movement, NSW, would like to invite all mothers, including grandmothers, godmothers, stepmothers, aunts and Spiritual Mothers and partners, to our first formation gathering.

Date: 21st November 2026
Time: 9:30am - 5pm
followed by Mass 6pm-7pm
Theme: The Eucharist - God's Gift - Place of Encounter
Cost: $30
incl morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea
Venue: St Nicholas of Myra Parish
RSVP: Friday 6/11/26

Diocesan News









DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

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!

Building our community
TOGETHER
Please contact either
Nanette - 0404 465600
Techie - 0438 201436

November is traditionally a month of remembrance and prayer for our dearly departed. The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on 1 November, followed by the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) on 2 November. Although these are no longer Holy Days of Obligation in Australia, the Church continues to encourage the faithful to pray for those who have died.

Throughout November, a **Book of Remembrance** is usually placed near the sanctuary, allowing parishioners to write the names of their departed loved ones. These names are remembered in the prayers of our parish community as we entrust our dearly departed to God's loving mercy and eternal peace.

November Calendar

MON	**2**	*All Soul's Day* 8:30am - Mass 6:30pm - Mass
TUES	**3**	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Prayer 7:30pm - Novena Mass *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
WED	**4**	*Saint Charles Borromeo (M)* 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
THURS	**5**	9:15am - Mass
FRI	**6**	9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Novena Mass *Sacred Heart of Jesus*
SAT	**7**	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
SUN	**8**	*All Saints (S)* 7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

YARD SALE

"Yard sale' after the morning masses on the **8th November '26**.

Things on sale will be unused items, homeware, organ (the size that is like the one in church and will have to be picked up) and other miscellaneous items.

Grandparents Day

Our Grandparents' Day celebration in our church kitchen last Friday was another successful YAH event.

We would like to invite more seniors to join this fun loving and vibrant group of Young at Heart seniors.

For more information on our activities and to register, contact Frank (0459 504 625) or Trevor (0407 150 399).



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,

SJ23 BLAZE YOUTH GROUP

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 8883 5981 accounts@john23rd.org.au
Support can be provided via the Registration forms are available at the church foyer or from the website or scanning the QR Code

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.

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, & 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 in being involved in and take leadership of this fun-loving dynamic group, please contact Tanya at the parish office or Techie at 0438 201436.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

"*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*" Luke 10:

The St. John XXIII Parish Liturgy Team warmly invites parishioners to serve and contribute in the following ministries below. Please contact Parish Office if you are interested or for additional information.

	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Assist in the distribution of Holy Communion during liturgies and bring Communion to the sick and homebound. Open to men and women aged 18 and above.
LECTORS	**Ministers of the Word** Proclaim the Scriptures and offer commentary during liturgies. Open to men and women aged 18 and above.
ALTAR SERVERS	**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	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	Ushers & Greeters Greet and assist parishioners, helping to create a warm and welcoming environment. Open to men, women, and children aged 12 and above.

YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS CLUB

Contact either:
Frank Coleiro - 0459 504625
Trevor Coutinho - 0407 150399

Vinnies
join in the good works
Please contact:
Debra Pitre - 0412 570 333

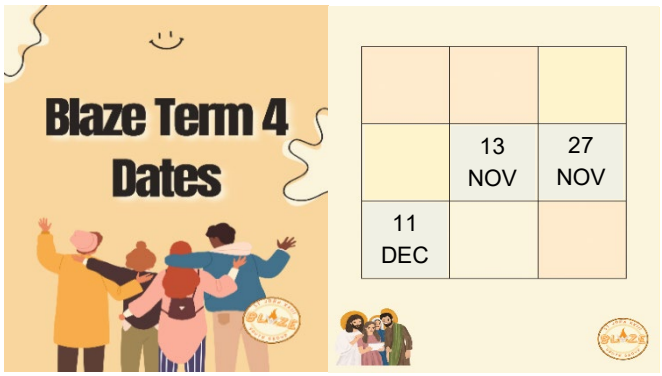
YOUTH | YOUNG ADULT GROUPS

BLAZE YOUTH
Year 7 to 12
WHEN: 7:00 - 9:00pm
WHERE: St John XXIII College (C Block Bell space)
For any queries:
✉ blaze@john23rd.org.au or
@blazeyouthsj23 on Insta|FB
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:
✉ Ignite.stjohn23@gmail.com
@ignite_sj23 on Insta|FB

YFC *(Youth for Christ)*
Australia - Dominic Lim
0468 826253
International - Ronan Limguangco
0478 629629

CRL *(Community of the Risen Lord)*
Rojith de Silva
0405 9563210
Nimeshi Fernando
0417 101009



FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

If you would like to make flower donations for the church altar, please contact:
James David on 0413 787596





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.

In Matthew 5, Jesus lists eight remarkable statements that are known as the Beatitudes. They are just as relevant today as they were 2,000 years ago, and here's how practicing them can revolutionize your life.

What are the Beatitudes?

The Beatitudes are specific blessings that Jesus detailed during a larger collection of teachings known as the Sermon on the Mount. As followers of Christ, these statements provide a guide for how we are to live for God. There are eight Beatitudes in total and each one is powerful and life changing. So, let's look at each one and how putting them into practice can revolutionize your life.

Beatitude #1: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

In this Beatitude, Jesus speaks about those who are "poor in spirit." At face value, this might seem like a strange characteristic to highlight. What does it mean, anyway? There are a few interpretations, but humility may be the most accurate comparison. Contrast this to those who were proud in spirit, such as the Pharisees, who Jesus often rebuked. Being humble, or "poor in spirit," allows us to honor God and understand our place in his kingdom. And Jesus tells us the kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit.

How can I be poor in spirit?

Having a humble heart can be difficult, as the sin of pride is an easy trap to fall into. However, an effective way to develop and maintain humility is by devoting time to reading the Bible and modeling your life after the example of Jesus. Paul describes Christ's example of humility beautifully in Philippians 2:1-11. Think about God, think of others. Look out for those around you. As C.S. Lewis said, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."

Beatitude #2: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

The mourning that Jesus mentions here is likely the process of mourning over our sin or sinful nature. Paul describes this type of mourning as "godly grief" in 2 Corinthians 7:9-10. What grief is considered godly? The kind that leads us to repentance and God's abundant forgiveness. Mourn over your sin and receive God's comfort that is described in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (ESV).

How can I mourn over my sins?

Pray and ask God to convict you of your sins. If you are earnestly seeking to repent, the Holy Spirit will prompt you to change certain habits that are not honoring to God. We all have things that we can ask forgiveness for and improve on. Although this process of mourning is a sad one as we come to realize how our sins hurt God, don't fall into despair! Ultimately, God wants us to recognize our sins so we can seek repentance and build a stronger relationship with him.

Beatitude #3: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

The definition of meekness is "[being] quiet, gentle, and easily imposed on; submissive." Some people may consider being meek as weakness, but as Jesus tells us, that couldn't be farther from the truth. The meek, he says, shall inherit the earth! Being meek is a combination of humility, patience, and obedience to God. Being submissive to God's will often isn't easy, but it's for our own good. We can trust God and his words in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (ESV). The meek find joy in submitting their lives to God.

How can I be meek?

Practice submission. You may be the type of personality who likes to take charge. That's great! But don't force yourself to be the leader every time. Exercise humility and patience by choosing to put yourself under the leadership of others. If you are the type of person who doesn't like to lead, that's great, too. But that doesn't make us meek on its own. Examine your heart and make sure that when you submit to others, you're exercising humility and patience in your obedience as well. After all, we're under the leadership of Jesus Christ, and we're called to obey him. It's a skill we all must learn!

Beatitude #4: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

We do not live in a righteous world – far from it. But, as Jesus describes in the fourth Beatitude, we are still to seek out righteousness. We are challenged to be morally responsible and seek out justice for those around us. Isaiah 33:15-17 speaks about a righteous person and how they should live. The righteous person knows that, even in a world that is unjust, there is hope. At the end of this world, God will usher in a new heaven and earth where the desire for righteousness will forever be satisfied.

How can I seek righteousness?

Take the time to look around you – in your home, church, and community. What injustices do you find, whether caused by yourself or others? Ask God to give you his eyes to see and the strength to help those around you. Remember, righteousness doesn't always involve great acts – it often begins with the little things in our lives that are easy to ignore. Above all, cling to faith in Jesus. Keep Romans 1:17 in mind: "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith'" (ESV).

Beatitude #5: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

The next Beatitude that Jesus talks about is to be merciful. We are called to follow the example that God has set for us – to show mercy to those around us. If we are merciful, the Bible tells us, we shall receive mercy from God. How important it is to be merciful! Recall the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant from the Gospel of Matthew: Jesus paints a picture of a servant who has been forgiven a great debt by his master but then turns around and refuses to show mercy to someone who owed him a much smaller payment. So, remember God's mercy to you and extend it to others!

How can I be merciful?

First, try to cultivate a merciful perspective. Think of all the ways God has shown mercy and forgiveness to you. Not the least of which was Jesus dying on the cross for your sins. If Jesus could show you (and me and the whole world) mercy to the point of death, how can we refuse to be merciful to others in much smaller matters? Meditate on the Scriptures and learn how to forgive others. Speaking of which, we wrote an article recently on how to forgive others! Use it as a guide to help you forgive those who wrong you and over time you will find yourself becoming more merciful!

Beatitude #6: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Next, Jesus talks about the blessing for the pure in heart. But what exactly does pure in heart mean? In 1 Peter 1:13-25, Peter talks about "loving one another earnestly from a pure heart." So, a sincere, selfless love for God and for others. This is brought about by an "obedience to the truth," the truth that he details earlier in the passage – that we were redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and that God has raised him from the dead and glorified him so that he is our salvation.

How can I be pure in heart?

It's important to know that we can't live out these Beatitudes by our own strength. It is Christ in us that gives us the power to live in a way that pleases God. Even knowing the hope of Christ, our hearts are not always pure and we still sin. That's why it's important to seek God's forgiveness when we stumble. For an example of this, look no further than Psalm 51:10. When David sinned, he lifted this prayer to God: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (ESV).

Beatitude #7: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Followers of Christ are called to be peacemakers. Not only that, but Jesus tells us in this Beatitude that by our pursuit of peace we will be called children of God. James 3:17-18 tells us, "…a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." Seeking peace with others, especially those who we would consider our enemies, is not an easy task. But we are called to emulate Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and become peacemakers in our communities.

How can I be a peacemaker?

By living in peace with those around you. Easier said than done, sure, but that is still what we are told to strive for. In Romans 12:18, Paul instructs us that "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." At times, peace may elude us, but it shouldn't be because we didn't offer it. Additionally, being a peacemaker isn't limited to a lack of external conflict. We should also strive for the spiritual peace, the "peace of Christ," that is mentioned in Colossians 3:15 – the shalom that only comes from God.

Beatitude #8: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The final Beatitude that Jesus lists really ties everything together. If we are seeking after God, striving to be poor in spirit, pure in heart, merciful, meek, mourning over sin, and seeking righteousness and peace, we will be persecuted. The Christian way of life is antithetical with the way of the world, and we can expect resistance. But being persecuted for righteousness' sake is a good thing, as unpleasant as that might sound. Peter gives us great encouragement 1 Peter 3:14-17 and concludes the passage with this statement: "…it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil" (ESV).

What if I am persecuted for righteousness' sake?

According to Jesus, you are blessed! And if we are persecuted, we should not be surprised. Jesus also said, "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." So, how can we prepare ourselves for this persecution, whatever form it may take? By living out the other Beatitudes in obedience to God and asking him to give us the strength to shine our light for Christ, wherever we may be. And finally, remembering the words of Jesus from John 16:33: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (ESV).

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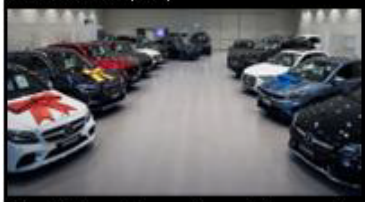
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