

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

In a development from the message of the parables of the last two Sundays, today's first reading (Isa 45:1,4-6) presents the startling occurrence of the Gentile emperor Cyrus of Persia (modern-day Iran) being called God's anointed (Messiah/Christ). Cyrus must have been wise, for his just style of ruling was widely respected and emulated, even by those he conquered; but he is especially celebrated for his unique place in Jewish history as their liberator after generations of exile in Babylon (modern-day Iraq). At the end of the previous chapter (44:28), God had called Cyrus his shepherd in the Hebrew (but wise in the Septuagint Greek), the one who would command the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the foundation of the new Temple. That Temple was still standing in the time of Jesus. In today's passage it is Cyrus who is able to open gates (rather than force them, as in our translation) that then cannot be shut. Much of this language evokes the statements about Peter as the Church's foundation, and the holder of the keys that open, and it is conceivable that Gentile Cyrus could be promoted as a model of wise leadership.

The only obvious link to today's gospel reading is that both Cyrus and Caesar (Tiberius) are foreign rulers. The first reminds us that God may work for his people even by a foreign king, by which is shown also that there is nothing apart from God, neither in the form of another god, nor in the powers of the earth; so how can there be separation between God and Caesar, as if each has authority of their own? However, among the Lectionary's omitted material from Matthew is chapter 17, which contains a related story concerning paying the Temple tax. There Jesus asked Peter if kings take tribute from their citizens or from subjugated foreigners. Since it is the foreigners who pay, Jesus says the children of the Temple are exempt from the tax, but so as to avoid offence (or scandal) he tells Peter to pay it with a coin to be fished from the lake. This has led to much idle speculation about the species of fish it might have been, all of which is best ignored. In fact, we are not told that Peter even completed the task. The episode may be considered to indicate the position of the first-century Jewish Christians, who looked to Jesus as greater than the Temple, but who, as observant Jews, paid the tax to avoid offence. People do often get wrong the division between Jews and Christians, presuming that one cannot be both, forgetting that there was no indication that the first disciples and apostolic Christians of Jerusalem ever considered themselves as anything but Jewish. In today's episode the Pharisees set out to trap Jesus in what appears to be a case of "my enemy's enemy my friend may be" since they send followers in company with Herodians, Roman collaborators, to ask him if it is right to pay the Romans' tax. The context presumes that he would answer "No", and therefore be liable to immediate arrest for treason. Instead, he asks to see the coin in question: it appears that he does not have one, but they do. It is indeed the foreigners' coinage, the only one authorised for use, and the basis for all trade and commerce. The picture almost evokes the scene from a certain movie, set in the same period, in which it was asked, "apart from the sanitation… public order, irrigation, roads, the fresh-water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?" The response of Jesus is, in effect: you have already bought into the system, so why not pay the system's price? Upon this response many have tried to construct rationalisations for the separation of state and religious authorities, but there is no indication any such thing was meant. Notwithstanding the claimed divine right of kings, every human society is a human construct, a human creation, but this does not separate it from God's jurisdiction. The first reading also reminds us that division between the foreigner and chosen ones is not clear, since God is God of all; there is no other god but God.

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

Catholic Mission Church Appeal

Sunday 18th October is Catholic Mission Appeal.
As we approach the 100th World Mission Day, Pope Leo XIV calls us to be "One in Christ, United in Mission" – a call to put Christ at the forefront, as we share His love with those who need it most. This is a powerful opportunity for the parish to be part of a life-changing mission. Please give generously.

Entrance Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading *Isaiah 45:1, 4-6*

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

> It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10*

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

Worship the Lord in his temple, O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king,' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5*

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Philippians 2:15-16*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 22:15-21*

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

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

Communion Antiphon

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.



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





Bonding with the Nigerian Community

Fr. Bart invited the Vinnies team to take part in the Eucharistic celebration by the Nigerian community at the Holy Family Church in Granville.

The mass was very different to the one we attend at Stanhope. Three newly baptised babies were offered at the altar. At the offertory and thanksgiving, the parishioners came dancing to the melodious singing of the choir. They offered their monetary donations and material gifts to the priests who blessed them with a prayer and sprinkling of holy water.

The Vinnies team got a chance to showcase their dancing skills as they offered gifts for the poor. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch and cake made by some of the parishioners. It was a day to be remembered.

Thank you Fr Barth and the Nigerian Community for inviting the Vinnies Group.





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

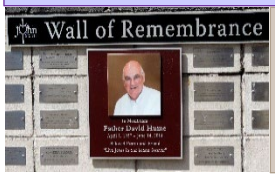
OCT	**6**	**13**	**20**	**27**	
	Erasmo	*Sebastian*	Shalini	Ring	
NOV	**3**	**10**	**17**	**24**	
	Barnouti	Tina B.	Meena B	Jacob	
DEC	**1**	**8**	**15**	**22**	**29**
	Shalini	Paguinto	*Available*	Fernandes	Fernandes
JAN	**5**	**12**	**19**	**26**	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	*Available*	

"A family that prays together, stays together" Fr Patrick Peyton

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

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

Luigi (Gino) Bruzonne, Veronica GamboaYu-Asensi, Fr Sunny Ner

Remembrances:

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, Gerald Simbulan, Marilyn Nalapo, Imelda Vinluan Christina Properzi, Peter McArdle, Carrie Conolly, Ksenija Bosnic, Lenka Olivier Talija, Jerwin McCarron, Maria Romeo, Helen West Emma Matoza, Rosanna John Pellissery, Babies w/Blister disease

Thanksgiving

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

Diocesan News

FaithFEED 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 FaithFeed. 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 FaithFeed 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.



Diocesan News

SOUL FOOD PODCAST
LISTEN NOW
MET Pastoral Formation
OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA
the well
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

October Calendar

MON	**19**	8:30am - Mass
TUES	**20**	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary | Rosary Prayer *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
WED	**21**	9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
THURS	**22**	9:15am - Mass
FRI	**23**	9:15am - Mass
SAT	**24**	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
SUN	**25**	7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass



Blaze Youth and Ignite Young Adults bake sale outside the kitchen after all Sunday Morning masses. Come along, grab a delicious homemade treat and support our young people as we raise funds towards our World Youth Day 2027 pilgrimage to Seoul! We'd love to see you there.
Thank you for your generosity



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

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.

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.

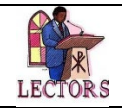
- **CAKE ANGELS**

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**

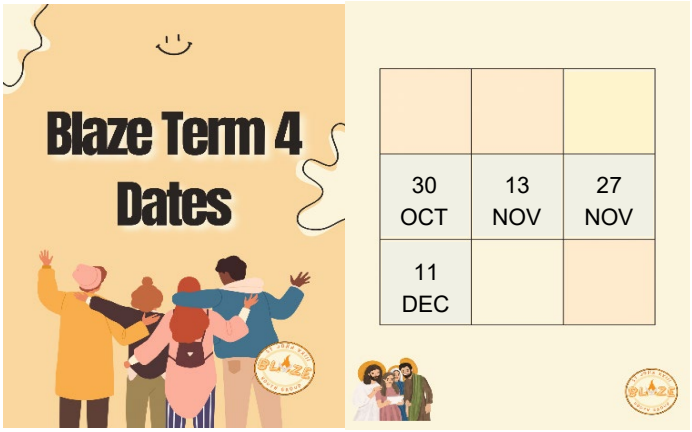
"*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*" Luke 10:

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.
	**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:** 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





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

YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS CLUB
Contact either:
Frank Coleiro - 0459 504625
Trevor Coutinho - 0407 150399



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.

Where does the "Holy, holy, holy" prayer come from?

Full Question

At Mass we say, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. " What is this prayer, where does it come from, and what on earth does "Hosanna" mean?

Answer

This prayer is called the Sanctus because that is its first word in Latin. The first line is the hymn of the seraphim in Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8. The second part is what the crowd cried to Jesus at his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Mt 21:9), which is modeled after Psalm 118:25.

Hosanna is a Hebrew term which is derived from the words yasha, which means "save," and na, which is an expression of entreaty or request and can be translated in a variety of ways-for example, "I pray," "I beseech," "please," or "O." The Hebrew terms were combined - yasha na ("O, save!"), as in Psalm 118:25 - and this became hosanna.

It was used as part of the Jewish temple liturgy during the feast of Tabernacles, when the priests carried willow branches and cried "Hosanna!" while processing around the altar of burnt offering'. Over time, the crowd gathered to worship picked it up, and it became a cry of joy. The seventh day of Tabernacles even came to be called "Hosanna Day."

Thus the crowd greeted the Messiah by waving palm branches and joyfully crying "Hosanna!" to him as he entered Jerusalem. By this time, the term may have lost some of its original meaning and may have been mostly an acclamation of joy and petition (as it is now during Mass).

Yet it still carried the air of a joyful petition for deliverance The expression "Hosanna to the Son of David!" was an exhortation to acclaim or praise the Messiah in hopes of deliverance (probably from the hated Romans in the mind of the crowd).

The expression "Hosanna in the highest!" is more mysterious. Suggestions have included the idea that it is an exhortation to us to cry "Hosanna!" to God, that it is an exhortation to the angels to cry "Hosanna!" to God, that it is an exhortation for there to be songs of praise in heaven, and even that the phrase means "Up with your branches!" (on the unlikely supposition that the branches carried during the feast of Tabernacles had come to be called "hosannas").

"Hosanna" was used as part of Mass in the first century. The Didache (A.D. 70) includes the acclamation "Hosanna to the God of David!" among the congregation's responses during the prayer of thanksgiving after Communion.

https://www.catholic.com/qa/where-does-the-holy-holy-holy-prayer-come-from

Why we sing 'Holy! Holy! Holy!' at every Mass

(Mike Aquilina)

"Holy! Holy! Holy!"

So we sing (or say) at every celebration of the Mass.

We call it the "Sanctus" (Latin for "Holy") or the "Trisagion" (Greek for "Thrice-Holy"), and it marks the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer, the most important moment in our worship.

In fact, God's people have used it in worship since centuries before the coming of Jesus. In many ways, it is the song at the heart of biblical religion.

The prophet Isaiah provides history's first witness to the use of the hymn. He heard the seraphim sing it on a particular day in the year King Uzziah died, around 740 B.C.

While serving as a priest in the Temple, Isaiah suddenly has a vision of the worship that takes place in heaven. He sees six-winged seraphim standing at God's throne. "And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory' " (Isaiah 6:3). Awestruck and terrified, Isaiah recognizes that he stands in the sight of God, his judge, and he is profoundly conscious of his own sins: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips" (v. 5).

Ever afterward the hymn was integral to Jewish piety. It appears in ancient texts, some of which predate the Gospel, such as the "First Book of Enoch," the "Testament of Abraham," and the "Apocalypse of Moses." There is evidence that it was used in the liturgy of the Jerusalem Temple. And it was sung in the synagogue — and still is today. Scholars believe that in the practice of the Jerusalem Temple the "Sanctus" was followed by a "Benedictus," an invocation that begins, "Blessed is he…" (perhaps Ezekiel 3:12 or Psalm 72:19).

Chanted in these places, the "Holy, Holy, Holy" represents a correspondence between worship on earth and in heaven. God's people raise the same hymn offered by his angels.

For the Jews this was a sign of restoration, of harmony between God and his people. In one apocryphal text, Adam recalls that the "Trisagion" was the mid-morning prayer of the seraphim, and in Eden he could hear them sing it. "But after I transgressed against the law," he adds, "I no longer heard that sound."

With the arrival of the Gospel, the song remained at the heart of the Bible's understanding of worship. In the Book of Revelation, John recorded heavenly visions like Isaiah's, but he describes them in greater detail. In chapter 4 he shows us "four living creatures," each with six wings, "and day and night they never cease to sing, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!'" (Revelation 4:8).

The "Sanctus" likely became part of the Church's ritual public worship at a very early date. Pope St. Clement mentioned it in his letter to the Corinthians, written in the second half of the first century. Several bishops of the early Church discussed the "Sanctus" in their preaching for Easter Week, when it was customary to explain the parts of the Mass. Both Cyril of Jerusalem and Theodore of Mopsuestia believed that its use in the liturgy was a sign of the reconciliation won through Jesus Christ.

For Cyril, the "Sanctus" was a necessary prelude to the Lord's eucharistic presence. "Then having sanctified ourselves by these spiritual hymns," he said, "we beseech the merciful God to send forth his Holy Spirit upon the gifts lying before him; that he may make the Bread the Body of Christ, and the Wine the Blood of Christ."

Like the Jews before them, the early Christians often paired the "Sanctus" with a "Benedictus," this one from the New Testament: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matthew 21:9, 23:39).

So it has been since the Temple was standing in Jerusalem. So it has been since the visions of Isaiah and John. The "Holy, Holy, Holy" rises as an expression of awe and wonder, unworthiness, and praise. It is a sign that God's presence is imminent.

In Hebrew, to repeat an adjective three times was to express its superlative form. In English we say something is "holy," or "holier" in comparison to something else, or "holiest" in comparison to everything else. In this hymn a congregation makes clear that no one and nothing is as holy as God is holy.

For Christians, moreover, the thrice-holy hymn is a suggestion of the three-personed God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Modern scholars believe that the first Christians drew the texts of their Eucharistic Prayers from simple Jewish meal blessings. But they upped the solemnity by adding the "Sanctus." Says the great historian of the Mass, Enrico Mazza: "it serves to define the nature of the [earthly] liturgy as participation in the celestial liturgy."

And so Pope Clement of Rome, around A.D. 67, said to the Christians of Corinth: "Let us consider the whole multitude of his angels, how they … cried, 'Holy, holy, holy, [is] the Lord of Hosts; the whole creation is full of his glory.' And let us therefore, conscientiously gathering together in harmony, cry to him earnestly, as with one mouth, that we may be made partakers of his great and glorious promises."

https://angelusnews.com/faith/why-we-sing-holy-holy-holy-at-every-mass/

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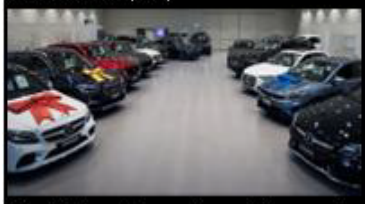
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