

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

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

We are presented today with another parable of a vineyard (Matt 21:33-43), and it is accompanied by a source of some of its elements in the first reading (Isa 5:1-7). The elements that help identify it as the text alluded to in today's gospel parable are digging a press and building a tower in it—both of which are irrelevant within the parable itself and so are not referred to again; they serve only to point to the book of Isaiah, where the people of Israel and Judah (the two kingdoms) are judged not to have done what was expected of them, producing injustice and bloodshed instead of justice and integrity. In Isaiah, the planted vines are identified with the people; they themselves have failed to produce good fruit and so are at fault. The threatened destruction is consistent with the deportation to Babylon that they were soon to endure. A different representation is followed in the gospel parable, where the vineyard itself is faultless and the vines appear to produce good grapes, but the tenants (who therefore do not own it) refuse to give what is owed to the owner; they disrespect him and do not act towards him as they should. Furthermore, they mistreat the servants he sends (commentary on the earlier treatment of the prophets), and in the end they kill even his very son (commentary on the coming crucifixion). In Isaiah God asks a rhetorical question: What more could I have done for my vineyard? After the parable, Jesus posed a question to the chief priests and elders: what will the vineyard's owner do when he comes? Their answer is not that he will destroy the vineyard, as promised in Isaiah, but that he will evict the tenants to install a new one who will do what is expected and give what is owed. Thus, contrary to Isaiah and the responsorial psalm (Ps 80(79)), the parable's vineyard and vines are not identified with the people; the vineyard and its fruit remain good, but the tenants are bad. Instead, the vineyard represents the Kingdom of Heaven, or of God, and although the people of Israel and Judah were chosen and installed to work in it, can they presume to have a particular or perpetual claim to it unless they do what is required?

The raises the ugly supersessionist idea, the claim that the people of the Covenant were to be replaced by another people – an idea finally formally rejected in the Second Vatican Council. In this parable we do in fact hear the early Church reflecting on the question: Who are the true people of God, the descendants of Abraham in the flesh (the Jews), or those who act rightly, like Abraham did (Christians, of any nation)? In other words, who are the heirs to the Kingdom? We have already encountered this questioning in the readings and reflections for the nineteenth to twenty-first Sundays in Ordinary Time. It was also raised last Sunday. The difficulty of these questions is that they can be misconstrued to feed a virulent anti-Jewish sentiment, but it should be noted that it is specifically directed at the chief priests and elders, not at the people. The missing verses (v.45-46) also indicate that these last two parables were directed not at Jews as a whole but only at the chief priests and the Pharisees. To disagree with first Century Jewish religious leadership, or with the leadership of any particular group, is not the same as rejecting a people.

The anti-Jewish interpretation is also contrary to the advice of the second reading (Phil 4:6-9) to fill your mind with what is good, and noble, and true; for then God's peace will preserve you in Christ. Peace here is the good fruit, and the produce that is owed. The fact that what was essentially intra-faith polemics between the pro- and anti-Temple parties as the early Church was being established could give rise to the hatred and persecution that produced last century's Holocaust is truly sad. That modern horror clearly demonstrated alienation of the perpetrators (and enablers) from the Kingdom that the Lord Jesus proclaimed. It emphasises membership of a particular group, whether to a positive or negative end, rather than stressing doing of the work of the Kingdom, the constant emphasis in the Lord's parables themselves.

That is not the way of the Kingdom; the way of the Kingdom requires doing the things of the Kingdom.

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

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

First Reading — *Isaiah 5:1-7*

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend has a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

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

Responsorial Psalm — *Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20*

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by.

It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

Second Reading — *Philippians 4:6-9*

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

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

Gospel Acclamation — *Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel — *Matthew 21:33-43*

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

> It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

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

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.



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
- scan QR Code

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





SBS SECURE BUILDING SOLUTIONS

WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT
7 September to 11 September

Milestone Summary
✓Contract Award 6/07/26
✓ Building Permit Issued 22/07/26
✓ Commencement On Site 10/08/26
☺ Practical completion 5/02/27

Completed Items this period
- Re-locate sewer line
- CLS piers inspection 11am 31/08

Activities being completed this week onsite

- Piling (ongoing)
- Electrical rough in of services below lower ground slab (ongoing)
- Hydraulic rough in of services below lower ground slab (ongoing)
- CLS Piers Inspection 7/9
- Excavation of slab footings and RW3 footing
- Steel reinforcement delivery
- Form and steel RW3 footings
- Retaining wall footing inspection 11/9

Thank you to one of our raffle sponsors for the Two-return Airfare to New Zealand, Susan Clark.
Your support and generosity are always appreciated



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

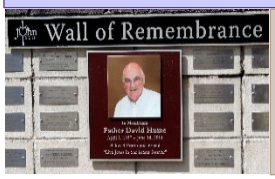
OCT	**6**	**13**	**20**	**27**	
	Erasmo	Sebastian	Shalini	Ring	
NOV	**3**	**10**	**17**	**24**	
	Barnouti	Tina B.	Meena B	Jacob	
DEC	**1**	**8**	**15**	**22**	**29**
	Shalini	Paguinto	*Available*	Fernandes	Fernandes
JAN	**5**	**12**	**19**	**26**	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	*Available*	

"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

Leoncio Castro, Mary Zahra, Anella Tortorella, PV Chacko, Cristine Carger, Obet Jacildo

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

FaithLIFE Franciscan Spirituality - October 6

Join us for an experiential, reflective evening where an expert in Franciscan Spirituality guides you to integrate life & faith practice, particularly within the context of the Jubilee Year of St Francis.
This session is part of the St Francis Week event series, hosted at Good Shepherd Plumpton Parish. All adults are welcome.
Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Light refreshments provided. Registration is essential.
Register online at: FaithLIFE Franciscan Spirituality (6 October) | Diocese of Parramatta

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/*

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



MET Pastoral Formation

OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

the well

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

For more events please go to *https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/* or *https://catholicoutlook.org/*

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	**5**	8:30am - Mass
TUES	**6**	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary Prayer 7:30pm - Novena Mass *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
WED	**7**	*Our Lady of the Rosary (M)* 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
THURS	**8**	9:15am - Mass
FRI	**9**	9:15am - Mass
SAT	**10**	9:15am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
SUN	**11**	7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass



Blaze Youth and Ignite Young Adults will be hosting a bake sale outside the kitchen after all Sunday Morning masses on the 18th of October. 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

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 scan 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.

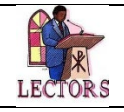
- **CAKE ANGELS**

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

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

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 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.

WHY PRAY THE ROSARY?

Edward Sri

As John Paul II explained, the repeated prayers in the rosary help us get more in touch with the deepest desires in our souls for God.

Many great popes, saints, and Christian leaders have exhorted us to pray the rosary. It's a powerful prayer, they say, one that can change your life, strengthen the family, bring peace to the world, convert entire nations, and win the salvation of souls.

But does the average person experience the rosary this way?

Many Catholics, unfortunately, have the impression that the rosary is not relevant for them. It might be a sacred prayer for very religious people—priests, religious sisters, and exceptional Catholics—but not for "an ordinary lay person like me." Even some devout Catholics admit that they are a bit intimidated by this prayer. They have tremendous respect for the rosary, know it's important, but feel bad that they don't love it more. Many view it as the marathon of Catholic devotions. "I know it's an important prayer, but it takes fifteen to twenty minutes. I'm too busy. I don't have time for that." "It's too hard to stay focused for that much time. I prefer shorter prayers."

Some have questions about the rosary: Does all this attention to Mary distract us from a relationship with God? Why do we repeat the same prayers over and over? Are we supposed to concentrate on the prayers, the mysteries, or both? Still others think the rosary is just plain boring—a monotonous, dry, mechanical way of talking to God, not as personal and meaningful as other forms of prayer. "It's like taking the garbage out for your wife. You know you should do it, but date night is more exciting." "Sure, the rosary might be good for you—like flossing your teeth—but it's not as interesting and meaningful to me as spiritual reading or adoration."

Others wonder if all the repetition has any meaning. "I know the rosary is important, but it just seems like rote prayer," one young adult said. "It's like saying magical words and something good is supposed to happen. What's the point? Is simply saying these words actually doing anything for me spiritually?"

But what if I were to show you that there is a lot more going on in the rosary than simply saying these words and counting them with beads? What if I were to tell you that the rosary is not beyond you—that you, wherever you may be in your relationship with God, can experience a profound, intimate, personal encounter with Jesus through this devotion? And what if you were to discover that there are many different ways to pray the rosary—indeed, some that can easily fit within your schedule and help you with whatever challenges you face right now in your life.

Think of the rosary as being like the ocean: There's something in it for everyone, whether you consider yourself a veteran mystic longing to go deeper in prayer with our Lord, a novice struggling to learn how to pray, or someone seeking the Lord's help, right now, with something going on in your life. The deep-sea explorer and the child making sandcastles on the beach can fully enjoy the same ocean while playing at different levels. And this is true with the rosary.

Getting Your Feet Wet

If the rosary is not a part of your regular prayer life right now, it's easy to get your feet wet with this devotion. Here are five key things you need to know to get started.

First, we don't have to pray the rosary all at once. Sure, some people might sit down and quietly pray a whole rosary in one sitting. But we can also choose to divide it up, saying just a decade or two at a time at different points throughout the day: on the way to work, in between errands, in between meetings, while folding laundry or doing dishes. Many holy men and women and even popes have prayed the rosary this way and have found it manageable and fruitful for their busy lives.

Second, we can pray it anywhere! The rosary is like a portable chapel we can keep in our pocket and pull out anytime, anyplace. Whether we have a sudden, urgent situation to present to God in prayer or we just want to fill some of our day with thoughts of God, all we need to do is pull out our beads and turn to the Lord in this prayer. Indeed, the rosary is always accessible.

We might pray it in a church, in our room, in our office. Or we might pray it in the car, on the exercise machine, in the grocery store line, or while cutting the grass or going for a walk. Bringing our hearts into the rhythm of the rosary is something we can do intermittently throughout the day.

Third, we can pray the rosary in different ways, customizing it to fit the needs of the moment. Sometimes we might focus on the words of the prayers, thinking, for example, of Gabriel's greeting to Our Lady as we slowly say with great devotion, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee."

At other times, we might reflect on the mysteries of Christ's life, prayerfully contemplating scenes such as his birth in Bethlehem, his transfiguration, or his death on the cross, etching the Gospel on our hearts. At still other times, we might focus on the holy name of Jesus at the center of each Hail Mary, speaking his name tenderly with love as the pulse of our rosary.

Two and-a-Half Minutes That Can Change Your Day

Fourth, it's easy to fit the rosary into your schedule. Do you have two and-a-half minutes in your day that you can give to God? This is the beauty of the rosary.

If I need a quick pause in my busy life—just a two-and-a-half-minute break—I can pull out my beads and pray a decade in order to regroup with the Lord and be nourished spiritually. That's all a decade takes: one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's, and one Glory Be. I can do that easily, pausing for a moment in between emails, in the car, in my office, in between meetings, in between errands. I don't even have to stop some things I'm doing I can pray a decade while cooking dinner, sweeping the floor, holding a baby, or walking to my next appointment.

If an urgent need comes up in the day—someone is in an accident, I'm about to begin a big project, my spouse is having a rough day, I have an important decision to make, I need to have a difficult conversation with someone, my child is taking an exam—I can say a quick decade right on the spot. In just two and-a-half minutes, I can offer a special gift to God—one decade of the rosary—for that particular intention.

Fifth, even if I'm not able to give the rosary my full attention, it's still worth praying. I might not always be able to completely unplug mentally from the concerns of the day. I might be exhausted, too tired to pray well. I might be distracted and unable to reach the heights of contemplation. But still, the words themselves are biblical and holy. Offering God a decade or two in the midst of my daily life gives him something beautiful, even if I give it without my full, relaxed, undivided attention. I'm giving God some space in my day and filling it with words of praise for him.

Going Deeper

But the rosary can take us deeper—a lot deeper. When we pray the rosary in its ideal setting, doing a whole set of mysteries, the prayer can slow us down, calm our hearts, and enable us to rest in God's presence. It draws out the deepest desires in our souls, desires for God and God alone.

The rhythm of repetitious prayers can have a profound spiritual effect. In this, it is much like the traditional "Jesus Prayer" many early Christians recited: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." They would slowly repeat these words over and over again throughout the day, such that the rhythm of this prayer was linked to the rhythm of their breathing.

As John Paul II explained, this loving repetition "embodies the desire for Christ to become the breath, soul and all of one's life" (RVM, 27). In the same way, the repeated prayers in the rosary help us get more in touch with the deepest desires in our souls for God.

We as human persons are made with infinite desires that only God can fulfill. But because we're fallen, we tend to live at the level of our superficial desires - desires for comfort, fun, fame, wealth, pleasure, success. These desires are not bad, but the rosary helps us be more aware of the soul's deepest desires, which are for God. As St. Catherine of Siena taught, the greatest gift we can give to God in prayer is not the finite work of saying the words but our "infinitely desirous love" for God that is expressed in those words and that is being drawn out of our souls in prayer.

How might this happen in the rosary? As we'll see more in my book, when we pray the rosary, we can focus on the name of Jesus at the center of every Hail Mary. We can simply speak Jesus's name with fervent, heartfelt love. We can gather all our desires into that one word, his beautiful, holy name. And with each Hail Mary, we can call out to him, like a lover speaking to the beloved: "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus…Jesus…Jesus."

https://www.franciscanmedia.org/st-anthony-messenger/why-pray-the-rosary/

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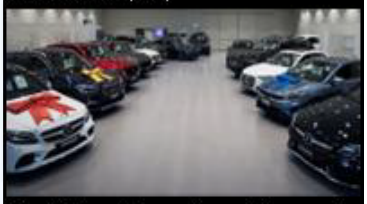
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