

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

For a wedding some years ago, the bride and groom each chose a reading, and the groom cheekily chose today's first reading (Prov 31:10-13,19-20,30-31), it appeared, to tease his bride. His reading of the first line was in line with the usual way it is read, but that reading does not in fact conform to the passage's intent. It is read, even proclaimed at times, as a rhetorical question, as if to indicate that no such being can be found. Translation is a challenging art. Firstly, the question is more like this: How can one detect (or better, describe) a wife described in the Hebrew as ayil? The noun ayil has a wide range of meanings, depending always on context. Here capable is probably the best translation, but the connotations of strong, noble, valiant, and virtuous are not out of place. Towards the end we find "the woman who is wise", which seems to reflect the Septuagint, rather than the Hebrew, which reads "the woman who fears the Lord", the same expression being picked up in the psalm response, "Happy [or Blessed] are those who fear the Lord." Earlier she had been praised for generosity to the poor and care for the needy. Reading the whole in its simplest and more direct reading, it is interesting to see the concluding reminder to husbands, in what was a patriarchal society, not to treat her via her productivity as a chattel; he is told that she is to share in the work of her hands (not to be dispossessed of it) and to let her works testify to her honour. Reading it in a spiritual way, the description can be seen not of any woman at all, but of the Church as Spouse of Christ. While the Church cannot literally busy her hands with flax and wool, she is to work productively in the world, especially to reach out to the poor and the needy, that her works, her fruit, may delight her spouse and reflect well on herself.

The line in the psalm, "Your wife like a fruitful vine", intersects with that reading of Proverbs and John 15:1-8 that calls Christ the vine and his members the fruitful branches. The key theme in the gospel parable of the property entrusted to servants (Matt 25:14-30) is about accountability for the talents entrusted by the master. This parable has shaped English by giving us the word talent, which though here a weight of silver figuratively became an ability with which a person is natively endowed, a gift not to be wasted. The parable was not intended to support or undermine particular economic philosophies for trade or capitalism, and attempts to co-opt it to that end seriously misuse Scripture; by such an approach any idea can find support in misappropriated Scripture passages. Or, as Shakespeare's Antonio put it in The Merchant of Venice, even the "devil can cite Scripture for his purpose." Scripture quotes must be understood in context, for context determines meaning. So also this parable should not be isolated from the earlier challenges to any presumption of Jewish inheritance of the Kingdom, nor indeed should claims be based merely on purported membership of the Church itself. The consistent warning implicit throughout this context is that if those invited to the Kingdom, or those entrusted with it and its works, do not perform accordingly then it will be given to others. If this challenge is valid for the chosen first, so too it is for the later chosen. In this we are given a negative version of the praise due in the first reading to the spouse who acts responsibly with the goods of the household, wisely increasing them and generously using them. On a final note, since the New Testament epistles are read in a serial manner, it is by coincidence that the second reading (1 Thess 5:1-6) offers a message that fits well with the end-time themes of the year's end and the beginning of Advent: the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. This is coupled with the advice to stay awake, much like we will hear in two weeks, when we switch to the Gospel of Mark. Blessed is she who has diligently attended to the matters of the Kingdom, ready at any time for the advent of the King.

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

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading — *Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31*

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

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

Responsorial Psalm — *Ps 127:1-5*

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R.**

Second Reading — *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons,' since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

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

Gospel Acclamation — *John 15:4, 5*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel — *Matthew 25:14-30*

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."'

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

Communion Antiphon

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.



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







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.*

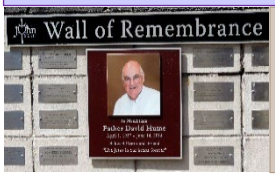
ROSARY STATUE FAMILY ROSTER					
NOV	3	10	17	24	
	Barnouti	*Tina B.*	Meena B	Jacob	
DEC	1	8	15	22	29
	Shalini	Paguinto	D'Cunha	Fernandes	Fernandes
JAN	5	12	19	26	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	Cayas	
FEB	2	9	16	23	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	*Available*	

"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

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

Zahru Galdes, Florante Bautista, Aparicion Cardenas, Rodrigo Castellano, Delia Laxamana, Augustine Balsingh, Cleotilde Rivera Baltazar

Remembrances:

Regalado Morales, Marcelino Alico

Death Anniversary:

Emilita Perz

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

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

Diocesan News

Bishop's Good Works Appeal - Help a young mother break the cycle of violence and homelessness.

This Christmas, embrace the spirit of the Nativity story. Let the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, inspire us to reach out to those in need - especially vulnerable homeless women and children.
Your tax-deductible gift this Christmas can provide young mothers and their children with secure shelter, nourishing food, and the support they need to build a strong family life and a hopeful future.
Please give generously at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan the QR code. Thank you for your generosity, Christian kindness and compassion.

Diocesan Advent Scripture Reflection with Dr Michele Connolly RSJ - November 21

What if Advent felt different this year? Join us for a guided reflection through the Scripture that shapes our Advent season. All Welcome!
Register for the Diocesan Advent Scripture Reflection Evening with Dr Michele Connolly rsj on Saturday 21st November 2026 3:00PM to 5:00PM Our Lady of the Way Parish 15 Troy St, Emu Plains Hospitality from 2:30pm.
Dr Michele Connolly is a Biblical Scholar and lecturer at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. She was also one of the expert advisors (periti) for the first Synod in the Diocese of Parramatta.
Dr Connolly is a religious sister of St Joseph who lectures on Biblical Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney (CIS), having also served there as Academic Dean from 2006 to 2017. She holds qualifications in Scripture, Theology and Education, having studied at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union (CTU) and completing her PhD in the New Testament at the Graduate Theology Union (GTU), Berkeley, California. Her areas of research interest include Gospel of Mark, Pauline Letters, Feminist and Postcolonial Criticism, Literary Criticism.
Register online at: Diocesan Advent Scripture Evening with Dr Michele Connolly RSJ (21 Nov) | Diocese of Parramatta



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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!

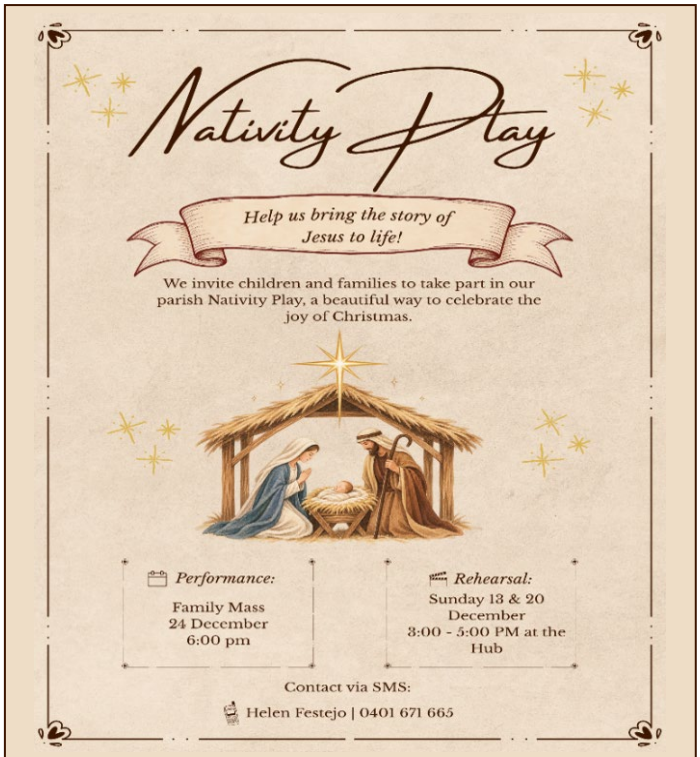
Building our community
TOGETHER
Please contact either
Nanette - 0404 **465600**
Techie - 0438 201436

November is traditionally a month of remembrance and prayer for our dearly departed.

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	**16**	8:30am - Mass
TUES	**17**	9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary | Novena Prayer *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
WED	**18**	*Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (M)* 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
THURS	**19**	9:15am - Mass
FRI	**20**	9:15am - Mass
SAT	**21**	*Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary (M)* 9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
SUN	**22**	*Christ the King (S)* 7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass



Be Part of Our Parish Christmas Nativity Play

As we approach the festive season, we're thrilled to continue our cherished Christmas tradition. This year promises to be even more memorable, with plenty of opportunities for children and families to get involved and share in the joy of the occasion.

Calling All Children – Join Our Nativity Play

Preparations for our Christmas Nativity Play are now underway, and we are excited to invite all children aged 5 and above to take part in this special tradition within our parish. The Nativity Play is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus through story, song and fellowship, and is a highlight of our festive celebrations.

Everyone is welcome to join our Nativity Play. Kids can take on roles such as angels, shepherds, wise men, narrators, choir singers, and more. No experience is needed—just come ready to participate and have fun. We're excited to see our children light up the stage and share the Christmas story with the community. Parents are also invited to help out with the production.

How to Get Involved

Please get in touch with **Helen Festejo** by messaging **0401 671 665**.



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 which 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 Minister of Holy Communion	**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.



A gentle reminder to all Liturgical Ministry volunteers

We kindly remind all Liturgical Ministry volunteers to complete their registration on MSP (Ministry Scheduler Pro). This will make our rostering process more efficient, organised and coordinated, ensuring a smoother experience for everyone involved. Training and guidance will be provided.

Please contact Wira Peiris for more updates on the matter.

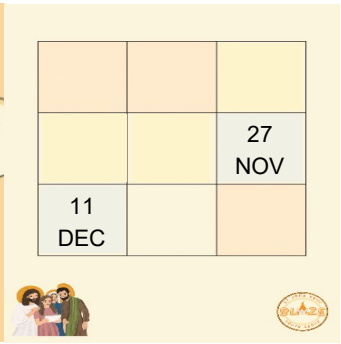
Signing in for your roster is available through the IPad provided in the working sacristy.

Thank you for your cooperation, continued support and generous commitment to serving our parish community.

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



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



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.

Sacrosanctum Concilium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) **By Pope Paul VI December 4, 1963**

God wills that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. In several ways he spoke to mankind in times past to the fathers by the prophets. At the fullness of time God sent His Son, the Word made flesh who preached the gospel of light. He became the mediator between God and Man. The wonderful works of God among the people of Old Testament were but a prelude to the work of Christ the Lord in redeeming man and giving glory to God. He achieved this through His paschal mysteries. And so, from the side of Christ as He slept the sleep of death came the wondrous sacrament of the whole church.

To accomplish so a great work, Christ is always present in His Church, especially in the liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the mass, not only in the person of His minister, but in the offerings especially under the eucharistic species. He is present in the sacraments that when a man baptizes it is really Christ Himself who baptizes. He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the church and lastly, when the church sings and prays, He is present, for He promised, where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them. In the church the church who is His beloved Bride calls to her Lord, men are perfectly sanctified, and God is glorified.

Rightly, then, the liturgy is considered as an exercise of the priestly office of Jesus Christ. Hence, every liturgical celebration, because it is an action of Christ the Priest and of His body the church, no other action of the church can equal it's efficacy by the same title and to the same degree. Therefore, the earthly liturgy which we partake becomes then a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy where Christ sits at the right hand of God as Minister of the holies and of the true Tabernacle. Nevertheless, the sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the church. Before men can come to the liturgy they must be called to faith and conversion. Therefore, the Liturgy is the source and summit toward which the activity of the church is directed, it is also the font from which all her power flows. It moves the faithful to be one in holiness.

In order that the liturgy may be able to produce its full effects, the faithful should come to it with proper dispositions, their minds be attuned to their voices and cooperate with divine grace lest they receive it in vain. The spiritual life is not limited solely to liturgical participation; the Christian is indeed called to pray with his brethren but must also prey secretly in his chamber. Also, this document encourages popular devotions provided that are ordered by the Apostolic See/Bishop. These devotions must harmonize with the liturgical seasons.

Priests both secular and Religious must understand ever more fully what it is they are doing when the perform the sacred rites. It is the responsibility of the Pastors of soul to promote liturgical instructions, lead the people to that fully, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations both internally and externally taking cognizance of their age and condition, way of life and standard of religious culture. The media can be used to promote the liturgy under the leadership of a suitable person appointed by the Bishop but with discretion and dignity.

Regulation of sacred liturgy depends solely on the authority of the church. Therefore, no other person, even if he be a priest, may add, remove, or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority. Liturgical services are not private functions but public, work done for the people (litourgia). It is a celebration of the church. Therefore, each person, minister or layman, who has an office to perform, should do all of, but only, those parts which pertain to his office by the nature of the rite and the principles of the liturgy. Servers, Lectors/Commentators and members of the choir must be trained to perform their functions in a correct and orderly manner and exercise their genuine liturgical functions in piety and decorum. To promote active participation, the people should be encouraged to take part in acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, songs, as well as by actions, gestures, and bodily postures. At a proper time all should observe reverent silence.

The rites should be distinguished by noble simplicity; they should be short, clear, unencumbered by useless repetitions, should be within the people's powers of comprehension, and normally not require much explanation. The homilies/sermons should draw its content mainly from scriptural sources, and its character be that of proclamation of God's wonderful works in the history of salvation. The use of Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites. Steps should be taken so that the faithful may be able to sing together in Latin those parts of the ordinary of the mass which pertain to them. Mother tongue or vernacular language can be used whether in the mass, administration of sacraments or other parts of liturgy provided they are of great advantage to the people. These norms must be observed by competent ecclesiastical authority.

In liturgy, the church has no wish to impose a rigid uniformity which does not implicate the faith or the good of the community; rather respects and fosters the genius and talents of the various races and peoples. Anything in these peoples' way of life which is not indissolubly bound up with superstition and error she studies with sympathy and, if possible, preserves intact so long as they harmonize with its true and authentic spirit. The liturgical life of the parish and its relationship to the bishop must be fostered theoretically and practically among the faithful and clergy, efforts to build sense of community is paramount.

Every diocese must have liturgical, music and art commissions under the direction of the Bishop. These three commissions must work in close collaboration; indeed, it will be best to fuse the three into one single commission.

The Church earnestly desires that Christ's faithful, when present at the Eucharist, which is the mystery of faith, should not be there as strangers or silent spectators; on the contrary, through a good understanding of the rites and prayers take part in the sacred action conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration. For this purpose, the rites are to be simplified, the homily highly esteemed as part of the liturgy itself and never to be omitted on Sundays and feasts of obligation except for a serious reason.

The purpose of the sacrament is to sanctify men, build up God's body and finally give worship to God; because they are signs, they also instruct. Therefore, the faithful should easily understand the sacramental signs, and frequent them with eagerness since they were instituted to nourish their Christian life. Thus, for well-disposed members of the faithful, the liturgy of the sacraments and sacramentals sanctifies almost every event in their lives and gives praise to God.

Rev Bat



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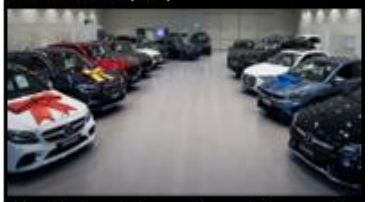
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