

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

The Church's cycle now turns toward the end of the liturgical year, and the readings begin to speak of last things. Today's parable of the ten bridesmaids is the first of three consecutive Matthean texts (with the talents and the judgment of the nations to follow) that press the question of how we are to live while waiting. The first reading from Wisdom prepares the ground by presenting Wisdom as one who is easily found by those who look for her. She is radiant and unfading, quick to be recognised by those who love her, and she goes about seeking those worthy of her. To keep vigil for her is to be free of anxiety, and the beginning of wisdom is the desire for instruction. The psalm (numbered 62 in the Jerusalem Bible and 63 in Hebrew numbering) gives the same longing a voice: the soul thirsts for God, and the one who seeks him in the sanctuary finds that his love is better than life.

In the gospel, ten bridesmaids wait for the bridegroom, and five are described as foolish and five as wise. The difference between them is not that some fell asleep, for all of them did. It lies in preparation: the wise brought extra oil and the foolish did not. When the bridegroom finally arrives, the unprepared go to buy oil and find the door shut. Many listeners find the wise bridesmaids' refusal to share unsettling, but the parable is not a lesson in etiquette. Some things cannot be lent. Readiness for the Lord is not a stock of goods that can be handed over at the last minute, for it is the fruit of a lifetime of attentiveness, of habits of prayer, mercy and fidelity built up patiently over years. Matthew also writes for a community wearied by the delay of Christ's return, and the parable reassures them that the delay is real but the coming is certain. The task is neither to calculate the hour nor to be anxious about it, but to be ready whenever it comes. Wisdom's promise in the first reading and the parable's warning belong together: those who seek wisdom keep their lamps supplied.

It would be a mistake to hear the parable as a threat. The oil is not a spiritual score to be tallied, and the bridegroom is not a stern examiner. The scene is a wedding feast, and the whole point is joy. To be ready is to want to be there, and to have lived in a way that makes the welcome natural rather than awkward. The image of the shut door is sobering, yet it stands as a warning about the seriousness of ordinary choices, not as the last word on God's character.

The second reading offers the other half of the picture. Paul writes to the Thessalonians, who were grieving their dead and anxious about what had become of them. He does not tell them to stop grieving. He tells them not to grieve as those without hope, for we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in him. Here is the ground of Christian watchfulness: we wait not in dread but in hope, because the one who comes has already gone through death for us.

This is particularly fitting in November, when the Church remembers the faithful departed. Many of us are carrying the names of those we have lost. The readings invite us to hold that grief honestly, and to hold it in hope. They also ask a gentle but searching question of the living: what is in my flask? Small, unglamorous things keep the lamp burning. Regular prayer, even when dry, the weekly gathering at the Eucharist, forgiving before the sun goes down, patient care for a sick relative, and honesty in work and home all count. None of these looks dramatic, but together they are the oil of a life turned toward God. Rather than fearing the night, we can trust that the bridegroom is coming and prepare to greet him with joy.

MASS TIMES

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

DEVOTION AND PRAYERS

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

EXPOSITION + BENEDICTION

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

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation *After the weekday masses*

Sat	after 9am mass to 10.30am 5:15 - 5:45pm before the Vigil Mass or upon request

Baptism *by appointment*

Sun	12pm Baptism

SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Blessings during masses

1st Sun	Birthday celebrants
3rd Sun	Wedding anniversary

HOMEBOUND?

Homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion please contact the parish office or text message to Rose Franco on 0401 387427
Or if you would like a visit from the Vincentians, please contact the Parish Office or share the relevant contact details with us.

COELIACS

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

JOIN & BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome pack at the church foyer or scan

Be part of our mailing list,
Communications@john23rd.org.au

Entrance Antiphon

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord. constantly seek his face.

First Reading *Wisdom 6:12-16*

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 62:2-8*

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **R**.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **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.**

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings, I rejoice. **R.**

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

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



Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 24:42, 44*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 25:1-13*

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

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

Communion Antiphon

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

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

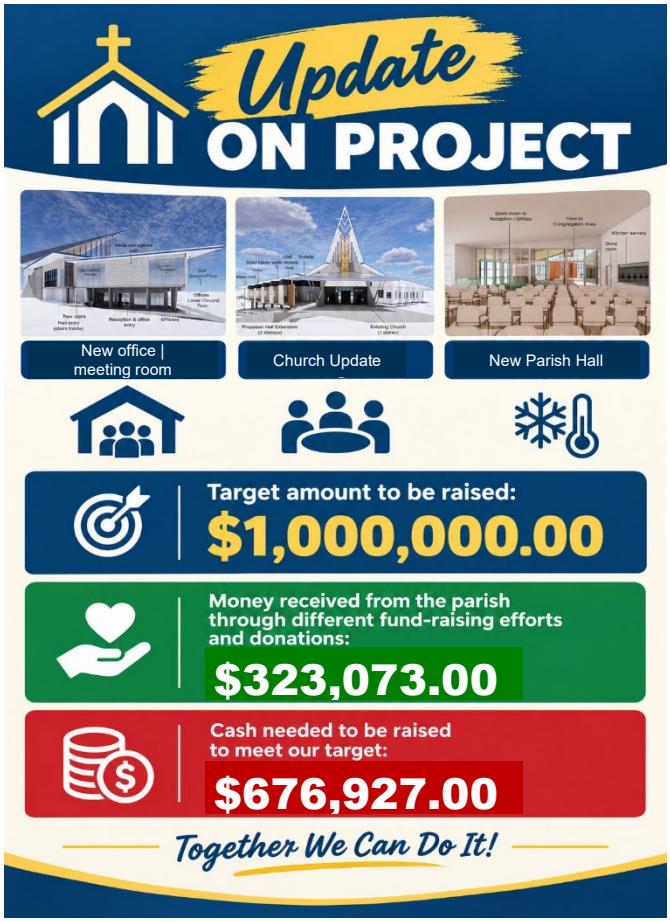
Completed Items this period

- 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.*

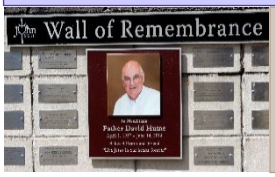
ROSARY STATUE FAMILY ROSTER					
NOV	3	10	17	24	
	Barnouti	Tina B.	Meena B	Jacob	
DEC	1	8	15	22	29
	Shalini	Paguinto	D'Cunha	Fernandes	Fernandes
JAN	5	12	19	26	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	Cayas	
FEB	2	9	16	23	
	Available	*Available*	*Available*	*Available*	

"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

Diocesan News

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 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

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

Augustine Balsingh, Cleotilde Rivera Baltazar, Evelyn Datoc, Pansy Lobo, Irlande Zuel

Remembrances:

Rose Lily Leonardo, Warlito Leonardo

Death Anniversary

Sick

Lord Jesus, heal me. Heal in me whatever You see needs healing. Heal me of whatever might separate me from You. Heal my memory, heal my heart, heal my emotions, heal my spirit, heal my body, heal my soul. Lay Your hands now gently upon me and heal me through Your love for me. Amen.

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

Thanksgiving

Carlo Reodique

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



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

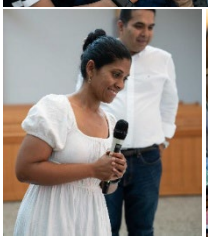
November is traditionally a month of remembrance and prayer for our dearly departed.
Throughout November, a **Book of Remembrance** is usually placed near the sanctuary, allowing parishioners to write the names of their departed loved ones. These names are remembered in the prayers of our parish community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

Holyween CELEBRATION

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the event!
It was truly a delight to see our young ones dressed as their favourite saints. Their enthusiasm, creativity and cheerful smiles made the occasion even more special.
Our sincere gratitude goes to the organisers who worked so hard to make this event a success. It is no easy task with young children, and we truly appreciate your time, dedication and effort.
A big thank you, as well, to all the proud parents who helped prepare their children and bring their favourite saints to life.
We are especially proud of our youngsters for confidently answering the trivia questions about their chosen saints. Hopefully, they have not only enjoyed the experience but also learned more about the lives of these holy men and women, and why, as Catholics, we choose to celebrate the lives of the saints rather than Halloween.
May these young hearts continue to be inspired by the examples of our saints and grow in faith! 🙏❤️






November Calendar

MON	**9**	*The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (F)* 8:30am - Mass 6:30pm - Mass
TUES	**10**	*Saint Leo the Great (M)* 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Rosary | Novena Prayer *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
WED	**11**	*Saint Martin of Tours (M)* 9:15am - Mass 8:00pm - Holy Hour
THURS	**12**	*Saint Josaphat (M)* 9:15am - Mass
FRI	**13**	9:15am - Mass
SAT	**14**	9:00am - Mass 6:00pm - Mass
SUN	**15**	7.30am 9:00am 10:30am masses 6:00pm - Mass

CALLING ALL YOUTHS YEAR 6 –12
We are excited to share that SJ XXIII Blaze Youth in collaboration with Mary Immaculate Youth are planning a "Living in Christ" Youth Retreat for young people in Year 6 to 12 on Saturday, 12 December 2026.
We are currently gathering expressions of interest to help us with our planning and to gauge how many young people are interested in attending.
If your child is interested in attending, please scan the QR Code
and complete the form. Kindly forward any questions to Ellena on 0478685191.
God Bless,
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 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

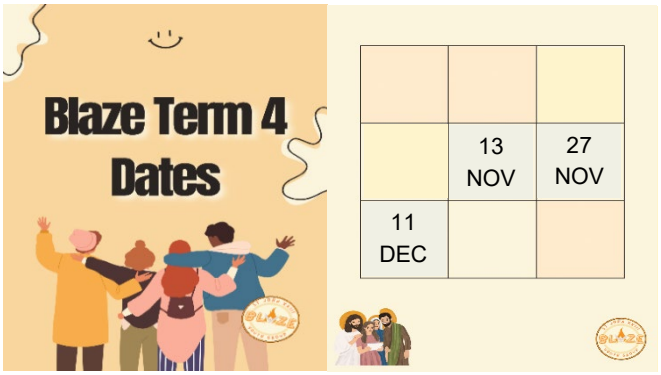
"*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*" Luke 10:

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 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.

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





HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR BARTH!!

May our Lord Jesus Christ shower you with His abundant blessings, grace, good health, wisdom and endless joy.
May the Holy Spirit continually guide and inspire you in your priestly vocation.
Thank you for your faithful service and inspiring ministry to our parish community. God bless you always.
Happy Birthday, Father! You are truly a blessing to our parish family. 🙏💖

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

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

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





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.



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.

PARTICIPATION

The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations called for by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation of the Christian people…is their right and duty by reason of their baptism... This full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else in the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy.
Vatican Council II (1963), Sacrosanctum Concilium 14.

What is this 'active participation' and how does it arise from our baptism?

To answer this question, we have to take a step back and ask: who celebrates the liturgy*? The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes it clear: Liturgy is an 'action' of the whole Christ… it is the whole community, the body of Christ united with its Head that celebrates* (CCC 1136, 1140). Now, when we are baptised, we are joined to Christ and become a member of his Body, the Church. It is the Church which acts in the liturgy and the liturgical assembly represents the Church at a particular place and time. Liturgy is therefore communal prayer, the corporate action of the Church/Christ.

Sometimes, people understand this participation as primarily an 'internal attention' to the saving action of Christ. It is true that participation in the divine life, an encounter with Christ and an interior union with him in the mystical body are the final goal of Christian worship. Liturgical participation is the means by which we enter the sacred mystery of God. Those who spiritualise the notion of participation treat liturgical participation like going to a concert where the music may indeed have a profoundly moving effect on the listener. However, at a concert, people are present as a silent audience: they are not actually making the music. In the Church's liturgy, on the other hand, they are by their baptism part of the Body of Christ and so take part in the doing. Participants in the liturgy are not spectators; the people are not an audience.

Others have argued that it is primarily the priest who, by virtue of his ordination, acts in the person of Christ. In this case, the assembly of the baptised would participate in what the priest is doing. Rather, all the baptised – priest and people alike – participate in what Christ is doing. By his ordination, the priest represents the headship of Christ, speaks on behalf of all, and presides over the liturgy to facilitate the manifold ministries of the baptised (welcoming, singing, proclaiming and so forth).

Sometimes one gets the impression from liturgical resources that 'active participation' means responding and singing, standing or sitting, moving in procession and other external actions. Liturgy preparation is a matter of external organisation. In fact, the externals promote active participation (SC 30) and provide a pathway into it, but do not constitute the essence of what participation means. True participation in the liturgy is both inward and outward, internal and external.

In liturgy, we do not retreat into our individual prayer even when silence is kept. [Liturgical] silence is not an inner haven in which to hide oneself in some sort of intimate isolation, as if leaving the ritual form behind as a distraction. That kind of silence would contradict the essence itself of the celebration. Liturgical silence is something much more grand: it is a symbol of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit who animates the entire action of the celebration. For this reason, it constitutes a point of arrival within a liturgical sequence.
Pope Francis, *Desiderio desideravi* (2022), 52.

We speak of the liturgy as a 'celebration' which contains within itself the idea of a great assembly, a concourse, a congregation. Each of the baptised takes part in the corporate action of the liturgical assembly. This is how we are one with Christ and participate in the saving mystery of his death and resurrection.

MOVEMENT, POSTURE AND PROCESSIONS

Movement and Posture

The gestures and posture of the priest, the deacon, and the ministers, as well as those of the people, ought to contribute to making the entire celebration resplendent with beauty and noble simplicity, so that the true and full meaning of the different parts of the celebration is evident, and that the participation of all is fostered… A common posture, to be observed by all participants, is a sign of the unity of the members of the Christian community gathered for the sacred Liturgy: it both expresses and fosters the intention and spiritual attitude (GIRM 42).

Worship must come from the heart but it is always expressed through the totality of the human person. Participation in liturgy takes place on many dimensions involving the body:

- Standing for: prayer, intercessions, greetings, hymns, gospel, gospel canticles, Lord's Prayer, blessings, dismissals
- Hearing: God's word, homily,
- Eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ
- Proclaiming the Word of God
- Responding in silence, word and action
- Singing in acclamation, praise, supplication
- Kissing: veneration of the cross, the gospel book, ritual sign of peace
- Procession: gathering, leaving, gospel book, presentation of gifts, Baptism, triduum
- Kneeling: consecration, prostration: Good Friday, litany, ordination, religious profession
- Genuflection: sign of adoration reserved for Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Cross during Triduum; towards tabernacle on approach and departure from sanctuary, after showing of host and chalice before communion
- Bowing: sign of reverence and honour of head or body: for Trinity – as in Glory be, blessed virgin Mary, saint of day, toward altar during specific prayers, by deacon before gospel, by priest at words of consecration (GIRM 275)
- Imposition of hands: during sacraments; over bread and wine to call on Holy Spirit
- Washing: of hands at Mass; of feet on Holy Thursday, Baptism, sprinkling rite
- Sitting: listening to readings, preparation of gifts, sacred silence after communion, Liturgy of the hours during psalms (GIRM 43)
- Bringing, carrying, receiving: bread and wine, gifts for the poor, gospel book, cross, candles,
- Smelling: incense, Oil of Chrism
- Signing: cross on self, on lips for Morning prayer, on objects during blessings, over water, on others for initiation, anointings.

Processions

Processions are a particular symbolic action. The rituals of the Church include many processions. To walk in procession is to move as one body in Christ. Processions are a reminder that we are people on the journey through this world to the promise of eternal life. We are reminded in the quiet prayer of the priest as he receives communion that we hope that by partaking in this sacrament we will all be brought to everlasting life.

Liturgy generally opens with a procession, at least of the presiding priest and other ministers. The book of the gospels may be brought to the ambo in procession while the gospel acclamation is sung. During the Eucharist the gifts are brought to the altar in procession. We come to the altar in procession to receive Communion. The rites for infant Baptism and funerals are meant to begin at the door of the Church followed by the entrance procession. During the rite of infant Baptism there is a procession to the font, then to the altar where the Lord's prayer is said. The Rite of Marriage suggests that it begin at the door of the Church with the priest meeting the "bride and bridegroom in a friendly manner" (RM intro 19) then going together in procession to the altar.

FULL, CONSCIOUS, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

The full, conscious and active participation hoped for by the bishops of Vatican II is one that engages Mass-goers in body, mind and spirit. While there are many ways that people participate in the Mass physically (by their posture, gestures and movement) and vocally (by joining in all the sung or spoken parts), these are secondary unless they promote interior participation. Full participation comes when people pray with all their heart and soul and mind and strength (cf Mk 12:30). The role of all the words and symbols and ritual action of the Mass is to engage the whole person at a deep level of faith.

Attentive and receptive listening plays a key role in all this. Listening with an open mind and heart is not a passive act; it is a chosen attitude. Sunday Mass offers a wealth of opportunities to practise this kind of listening. The Scripture Readings and the Eucharistic Prayer call for sustained attention; listening receptively to other elements, such as meditative music, may bear much fruit too.

Occasions of silence in the Mass are of the utmost importance. They allow Mass-goers to absorb what has been said and done and to let it bear fruit in their hearts. Times of silence are not empty but full of promise.

Music also has an invaluable role to play in the celebration of Sunday Mass. As the General Instruction says, Singing is the sign of the heart's joy. Thus St Augustine says rightly, 'Singing is for one who loves,' and there is also an ancient proverb: 'Whoever sings well prays twice over' (GIRM #39). In choosing what will be sung, the highest priority should be given to singing the dialogues and acclamations of the Mass, followed by the responsorial psalm and processional chants for the Entrance and Communion. This ensures that the parish community sings the Mass rather than sings at Mass. There's a world of difference between the two.

Ministries

The Vatican II Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy established clear principles for specific forms of active participation. These are called liturgical ministries. There are diverse roles to be filled, reflecting the nature of the liturgy and the gifts given to the local community.

The Mass is not a ceremony performed by the priest in front of a passive audience. Rather the priest presides over and coordinates a whole range of ministries. Thus, *Servers, lectors, commentators, and members of the choir also exercise a genuine liturgical function (GIRM #29).* In fact, no-one should serve in multiple roles. *In liturgical celebrations each person, minister or layman, who has an office to perform, should do all of, but only, those parts which pertain to his office ... (GIRM #28).* The focus for all liturgical ministry is service: service of God, service of the liturgical action, and service of God's people gathered to celebrate.

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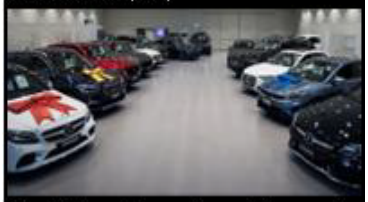
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