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 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens. NSW 2768

<p>Priests Serving The Parish: Fr Brian Rooney Fr Kevin Walsh Email: kevin.w3@bigpond.com Fr Dave Hume Email: FrDave@john23rd.org.au Presbytery: 8824 3985</p> <p>Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10.30am and 6.00pm.</p> <p>Baptisms: <i>By appointment</i> on Sunday at 12.00pm</p> <p>Reconciliation: First Rite: Saturday 4.30pm - 5.30pm. Second Rite: Third Saturday at 9.30am.</p> <p>Exposition: Tuesdays and First Fridays 6.30pm-7.30pm and Saturdays 8.00am-9.00am (Vocations)</p> <p>Weekday Masses: Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat at 9.00am in the Church. Tuesday: Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 7.30pm. Fri 9.00am (Holy Cross Primary during school term)</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY Exposition 6.30pm-7.15pm. Benediction at 7.15pm and Mass at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Sacrament of the Sick: First Saturday during 9.00am Mass: Morning Prayer of the Church: - Sun 8.00am; Wed 9.30am;</p> <p>Schools</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Holy Cross, Glenwood.</td> <td>Principal:</td> <td>Leanne Nettleton</td> <td>02 9629 8742</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John XXIII, Stanhope Gardens</td> <td>Principal:</td> <td>Peter Stoyles</td> <td>02 9852 0500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Mark's College, Stanhope Gardens</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Holy Cross, Glenwood.	Principal:	Leanne Nettleton	02 9629 8742	John XXIII, Stanhope Gardens	Principal:	Peter Stoyles	02 9852 0500	St Mark's College, Stanhope Gardens				<p>Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm (Monday to Thursday) 9.30am - 3.00pm (Friday)</p> <p>Parish Secretary: Tanya Gatt (Monday-Friday)</p> <p>Sacramental Coordinator/ Finance: Sue Andruskin (Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs) Email: Sacramental @john23rd.org.au</p> <p>Youth Minister: Colin Lee Ph: 9852 0525 Email: bj23youth@john23rd.org.au www.blazeyouthministry.com</p> <p>RCIA Co-ordinators: John & Jean McCartney Email: profmark@ozemail.com.au</p>
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BREAKING OPEN THE WORD!

I read during the week about being a planner or a pilgrim.

The planner likes to have total control over his or her life and to be able to plan each stage according to pre-set goals. Planners take their cue from what society considers success, and spend most of their time trying to match the lifestyle and value of others. They become bitterly disappointed if they fail to achieve these objectives.

The pilgrim, on the other hand, is someone who accepts life as a gift that unfolds as we live it, for however hard we may try, we can never have complete control over what happens. He/she is not deterred by failures and disappointments but sees them as opportunities for spiritual growth. Unlike the planner, the pilgrim never feels entirely comfortable or at ease with society's values.

The planner refuses to live by faith. The pilgrim on the other hand lives by faith, knowing that life is full of risk, yet affirming it. He or she senses the full insecurity of the human situation, yet rejoices. That is the essence of faith. This person puts themselves in God's hands, and thus opens themselves to the full grace of God's protection.

Abraham is the great Old Testament model of faith (Second Reading). He is the quintessential pilgrim. At the word of God he uprooted himself, leaving his home and people, and set out for a land God promised to show him, It was a journey into the unknown. The only compass he had was faith in God.

We are the spiritual descendants of Abraham. We prove ourselves true children of Abraham by imitating his faith. Life is full of uncertainty. Like Abraham, we are journeying into the unknown. We literally don't know what lies around the next bend on the road of life. Yet, in spite of frustrations and failures, we journey on— pilgrims homesick for a place where our hopes will be realised, and where our true life will begin.

The real test of fidelity is to be faithful in spite of setbacks and failures, even when it just means being faithful in small things, believing that our life does matter, and that we can make a difference. We should draw courage and hope from the words of Mother Teresa: "We are not called to be successful, only to be faithful."

Go gently, Fr Dave.

8th August 2010

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

BEATITUDES OF LIFE

Blessed are the faithful: they are like safe anchors in a world of broken moorings.

Blessed are the just: they are to society what leaven is to bread.

Blessed are the generous: they keep alive our faith in the essential goodness of people.

Blessed are the caring: they shine like beacons in a world darkened by indifference.

Blessed are the genuine: they glow like gems in a world of falseness.

Blessed are those who are not afraid of sacrifice: on the day of the harvest they will sing for joy.

And blessed are those who refuse to look back: they will be found worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

ASSUMPTION of the VIRGIN MARY- YEAR C

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FIRST READING: Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Just as you struck our enemies,
you made us glorious by calling
us to you.*

That night had been foretold to
our ancestors,
so that,
once they saw what kind of oaths
they had put their trust in,
they would joyfully take courage.
This was the expectation of your
people,
the saving of the virtuous and the
ruin of their enemies;
for by the same act with which
you took vengeance on our foes
you made us glorious by calling
us to you.

The devout children of worthy
men offered sacrifice in secret
and this divine pact they struck
with one accord:
that the saints would share the
same blessings and dangers
alike;
and forthwith they had begun to
chant the hymns of the fathers.

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

Resp Psalm: Ps 32:1. 12. 18-20. 22

R. Happy the people the Lord has
chosen to be his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you
just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the
Lord,
the people he has chosen as his
own. **R.**

The Lord looks on those who revere
him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 11:1-2. 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
*We will look for the city designed and built
by God.*

Only faith can guarantee the blessings
that we hope for, or prove the existence of
the realities that at present remain un-
seen. It was for faith that our ancestors
were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the
call to set out for a country that was the
inheritance given to him and his descen-
dants, and that he set out without knowing
where he was going. By faith he arrived,
as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and
lived there as if in a strange country, with
Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him
of the same promise. They lived there in
tents while he looked forward to a city
founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite
of being past the age, was made able to

conceive, because she believed that he
who had made the promise would be faith-
ful to it. Because of this, there came from
one man, and one who was already as
good as dead himself, more descendants
than could be counted, as many as the
stars of heaven or the grains of sand on
the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any
of the things that had been promised, but
they saw them in the far distance and wel-
comed them, recognising that they were
only strangers and nomads on earth. Peo-
ple who use such terms about themselves
make it quite plain that they are in search
of their real homeland. They can hardly
have meant the country they came from,
since they had the opportunity to go back
to it; but in fact they were longing for a
better homeland, their heavenly home-
land. That is why God is not ashamed to
be called their God, since he has founded
the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to
the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to
sacrifice his only son even though the
promises had been made to him and he
had been told: It is through Isaac that
your name will be carried on. He was
confident that God had the power even to
raise the dead, and so, figuratively speak-
ing, he was given back Isaac from the
dead.

This is 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: Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke

See that you are prepared.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to
be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your
Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get
yourselves purses that do not wear out, treas-
ure that will not fail you, in heaven where no
thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For
where your treasure is, there will your heart be
also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have
your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their
master to return from the wedding feast, ready
to open the door as soon as he comes and
knocks. Happy those servants whom the mas-
ter finds awake when he comes. I tell you sol-
emnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at
table and wait on them. It may be in the second
watch he comes, or in the third, but happy
those servants if he finds them ready. You may
be quite sure of this, that if the householder had
known at what hour the burglar would come, he
would not have let anyone break through the
wall of his house. You too must stand ready,
because the Son of Man is coming at an hour
you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for
us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What
sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise
enough for the master to place him over his
household to give them their allowance of food
at the proper time? Happy that servant if his
master's arrival finds him at this employment. I
tell you truly, he will place him over everything
he owns. But as for the servant who says to
himself, "My master is taking his time coming",
and sets about beating the menservants and
the maids, and eating and drinking and getting
drunk, his master will come on a day he does
not expect and at an hour he does not know.
The master will cut him off and send him to the
same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master
wants, but has not even started to carry out
those wishes, will receive very many strokes of
the lash. The one who did not know, but de-
serves to be beaten for what he has done, will
receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a
great deal given him, a great deal will be de-
manded of him; when a man has had a great
deal given him on trust, even more will be ex-
pected of him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**FROM THE PARISH PRIEST
FATHER DAVE HUME**

I would like to thank those who contributed to the **DWF Collection** last week. We raised **\$5 000** but we fall short of our quota of **\$6 000**. If anyone missed out and would like to contribute this week, then there are envelopes and pencils on the tables at the back of the church. Any further contributions would be appreciated.

To those people who have keys to our church, parish office and presbytery, please let me know. I am changing the alarm codes and need to have an accurate key register. Please contact me by email or phone the parish secretary Tanya with your name and key type. When I change the alarm codes then those on the register will be issued their own private code.

This week I would like to thank those people on the counting roster. Thank God for:

Bill Southan	Merelyn Southan
Elaine Walford	Avelino Olan
Grace Scala	Des Lloyd
Barbara Lloyd	Carmen Farrugia
Joe Farrugia	Riza Angelas
Clive Greasby	Patricia Greasby
Daphne Loughlin	Winnie,
Donna Lim	Mary Murphy
Theresa Limson	Eddie Mantua
Ivy Mantua	

Anyone who would like to be part of the counting team then please phone Tanya at the parish office. **Fr Dave**

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
BART SARLABUS - CHAIRPERSON**

Hello, fellow parishioners!

Today's Gospel parable from St. Luke implores us to be ready at all times to serve Christ, for He will come when we least expect it. Twenty-six of us experienced such a call for readiness and service last month when we were commissioned to the third BJ23 Parish Council.

What is the Council all about?

One of our key tasks is to assist Father Dave in the development of a Pastoral Plan that will enable our parish to live up to its

Mission Statement:

"The parish of Blessed 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 talents."

How will we do this?

We will **listen** to you – already, we have grouped ourselves into four teams to discuss the various areas you have put forward during the parish meetings, but we hope to hear more from you in the coming weeks; We will **pray** to the Holy Spirit for guidance while we **deliberate** on an outline for the Pastoral Plan;

We will **communicate** our progress regularly and **get feedback** from you; We will **call on you** for support and prayers as it is only through a concerted effort by all of us working hand-in-hand that we will be able to fulfill our vision to be truly a faith community in Christ.

Have a great week!

Bart Sarlabus

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
SUE ANDRUSKIN**

**BLAZE YOUTH NEWS
COLIN LEE**

**The Parents Meetings for
First Reconciliation** (the start of our Sacramental program) will take place at **Blessed John XXIII Church** on **Wednesday, September 15 at 7.30pm** Or **Thursday, September 16 at 7.30pm.**

Enrolment forms will be handed out at these sessions. The children will bring the enrolment forms back to mass with a copy of their Baptism certificate attached on the **weekend of 18th / 19th September.**

They will take part in an **Enrolment Ceremony** at these masses. For further details please see the parish website www.john23rd.org.au



NEW BLAZE PROGRAM (3rd Friday of the month)

7.00pm – 10.00pm

Friday, August 20th 2010

(Parable of The Narrow Door Theme: Humility and Hospitality, **"Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last"**)

Friday, September 17th 2010

(Parable of The Dishonest Manager Theme: Honesty and faith, **"God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God"**)

Friday, October 15th 2010

(Parable of The Widow and the Unjust Judge, Theme: Mercy and Justice, **"God will grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night"**)

Friday, November 19th 2010




(The necessity for Watchfulness, Theme: Forgiveness and Justice, **"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise"**)

YOUTH MASSES

(1st Sunday of the month 6pm - 7pm followed by supper)

Sunday 5th September 2010
Sunday 3rd October 2010
Sunday 7th November 2010

Please note there is now a **Sacramental noticeboard** in the **church foyer**. Also Sacramental details can be found on our website www.john23rd.org.au .

Parish Notices	Parish Notices	Parish Notices
 <p>St Vincent de Paul Society <i>good works</i></p> <p>CAN YOU SPARE VINNIES A LITTLE TIME? Week after week for more than 100 years, the volunteers of St Vincent de Paul Society in our region have been helping local people in crisis. But now Vinnies needs your help. On August 28 & 29 the Society will hold its annual Doorknock Appeal in our Dioceses to raise funds to help families in need.</p> <p>Are you able to spare a few hours of your time on the weekend of August 28/29 this year to join the great Blessed John 23rd Doorknock Team? Contact Tanya at the Parish Office with your details. Encourage your family and friends to join you. No one is too old!</p> <p>Here is an opportunity to put faith into action, get some exercise and have some fun! And in an unspoken but effective way, help spread the Lord's message of love and compassion throughout our local community.</p>	<p>We pray and remember.....</p> <p>Born to Eternal Life: Domingo Alig-gaya, Tom Requilman, Gregory Alexander, Miguel Toloba.</p> <p>Anniversary: Clifford Rose, Peter Joachim, Daniel Duchesne, Mr Clifford, Mrs Winnie Rose, Rienzie Anderson.</p> <p>Sick: Rita Halls, Irene Leantou, Darius Hasibuen, Aquido Que, Janet Perera, Fiorita Morelli, George Kiddle, Michael & Rosa Cascio, John Cook, Lolita P Ludovice, Charlie Vella, Josephine Ballas, Alvin Sebastian, Abegail Udarbe, Pepito Atayan, Florence Canda, Jun Noble, Rustico Reyes, D. Mercado Sr, Beth Linsao, Norman Ranasinghe, Emanuel Cremona, Prudencia Saceda, Debbie Clark.</p>	<p>SEEKING ENROLMENT IN 2011?</p> <p>Enrolments Applications will be available for distribution to students seeking enrolment into Kindergarten at John XXIII Catholic Primary School and Year 7 at St Mark's Catholic College. Please visit the school office, 7.45 am – 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday, or contact The Enrolment Officer on 9852 0500 to complete an Expression of Interest form.</p> <p>Enrolments for 2011. Expressions of Interest for Kindergarten 2011 are now being taken for Holy Cross Primary at Glenwood. For further information please contact Mrs Kylie Batiste on 9629 8742 at the school office. The forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.hcglenwood.catholic.edu.au or email holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au</p>
<p><u>BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWED</u></p> <p>The Solo Parent Ministry (Centacare Catholic Social Services) now offers two monthly Bereavement Support Groups in the Diocese for those who have suffered the death of their spouse or partner. One runs in Parramatta for 6 mths. (March – August) on the second Thursday of the month between 11.00 and 12.30. The other is in Penrith for 6 mths (June – November) on the second Tuesday of the month between 10.00 & 11.30. For further details or for attendance at these gatherings which are coming up this week, contact Sr. Eileen Quade 99330205 or eileen.quade@ccss.org.au.</p>	<p>What does Mary MacKillop mean to you? The Diocese of Parramatta's website has a section dedicated to the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. This section includes stories from people across the Diocese whose lives have been touched by Mary. If you have a special connection to Mary that you would like to share, go to "Mary MacKillop Canonisation" on the home page menu at www.parra.catholic.org.au</p>	<p>OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST DUE TO STAFF TRAINING.</p>
<p>Carpenter/Builder Required Are you a carpenter or builder who can donate your time and talent to a project for the church? To further enhance our Audio/Visual in our church we need to build a cabinet or false wall at the choir area to house new sound equipment. If you are able to help out, please contact Neville Zammit on 0402 428 925 or Tanya at the Parish Office.</p>	<p>OVER 55'S</p> <p>Monday 16th August 2010 Lunch at Florentino Restaurant Shop 15, Circa Boulevard Bella Vista 11.30am for 12.00pm</p>  <p>Please contact Des or Barb on 8824 7220</p> <p>Yearly calendar in foyer.</p>	<p>FOOD FOR THOUGHT: <i>Fr. Kev Walsh</i></p> <p>Do you wish to deepen the quality of your life? Would you like to spend some quality time, nourished from God's Word?</p> <p>Are you looking for inner peace? If, so...do check out the coloured Flyers in the Shrines of Our Lady, and St. Joseph for detailed information.</p> <p>Fr. Kev and his team of young people, will be leading a Tazie style Prayer time, 1st Friday of each month, 7.30-8.45PM, commencing August 6, at St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills.</p>
<p>Would you like to Advertise in this space? Call the Parish Office on (02) 98520580</p>	 <p>Hills Family Funerals</p> <p><i>A Tradition of Care & Concern Pre- Paid Funerals Available</i></p> <p>340 Old Northern Rd. Castle Hill 9659 0900</p> <p>www.hillsfamilyfunerals.com.au</p>	<p>Presiders for next week: 14th August 15th August Sat. Vigil 6.00pm Fr. Brian Rooney Sun. 8.30am Fr. Dave Hume Sun. 10.30am Fr. Kevin Walsh Sun. 6.00pm Fr. Dave Hume</p> <p>Would you like to Advertise in this space? Call the Parish Office on (02) 98520580</p>