

## Important Announcement : Changes to Sunday Mass Times

As part ongoing efforts to strengthen our faith community, we are pleased to announce an important development and change for St John XXIII Parish.

In consultation with the President of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Religious Education Director, we have decided to adopt a new schedule for our Sunday morning Masses, with **Masses starting at 9:00 am and 11:00 am from 29 September 2024**. **Saturday Vigil Mass at 17:30** and **Sunday evening Mass at 19:00 (Notre Dame)** will remain unchanged. **NB, there will be no 10:00am Mass after Sunday 22 September.**

Our new Mass schedule has been developed to support the following important parish objectives:

- **Strengthening Our Faith Community:** Consolidating our Sunday Masses will increase the number of parishioners attending each Mass, which will contribute to an enriched liturgical, faith and community experience for everyone. As our church comfortably seats 650 people and can easily accommodate the increased attendance, three weekend Masses will be more than enough for the needs of our community. This will also help with the consistency of messaging both through the homilies and Mass announcements, keeping our parish informed and shepherded.
- **Enhancing Our Religious Education Programme:** The new Mass times will allow our Catechism programme to be merged into one set of Sunday morning classes starting at 10:00 am. This merging of the current two sets of classes into one will bring many benefits and efficiencies: all the children in one year level can experience faith formation together; volunteers can be deployed more efficiently across the classes; and, most importantly, children **will not need to leave Mass** to attend classes, which will help in their faith formation and, we pray, lead them to a greater understanding of the importance of the Eucharist in their lives.
- **Addressing Liturgical Considerations:** Historically, St John XXIII Parish was blessed with two full-time priests to serve our English-speaking community. As times change, Fr Paul has served our parish alone for many years now, and we can expect this situation to continue in the future. Consolidating our Sunday Masses will help to relieve some burden on our devoted priest, as well as all our dedicated liturgical volunteers who help make Masses possible.

### Praying through change

Changes in a Parish can upset spiritual and emotional equilibrium. Prayer is the key that unlocks our resistance to change. Prayer shifts the burden of change into God's hands. It eases discomfort, erases fears and helps us see from a different perspective. Prayer opens our minds, hearts and souls. Prayer gives God the opportunity to fill us with deep inner peace. It is a gift of grace from a loving God.

Through the miracle of grace, prayer changes our lives and touches the lives of people around us. Prayer instils in us an appreciation for the good and can help us accept change.

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The new Mass schedule will begin on **Sunday 29 September 2024**. Many thanks for your support and understanding as we all transition to the new schedule and continue to strengthen our wonderful faith community.