

## First Reading Acts 4:32-35

*The whole group was united, heart and soul.*

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1**

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting**

or

**(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.  
I was punished, I was punished by the  
Lord,  
but not doomed to die. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Jn 5:1-6

*Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God;

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy are those who have not seen me,  
but still believe!  
Alleluia!**

## Gospel Jn 20:19-31

*After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



## Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we consider the presence of the Risen Lord. Where is he found? Each of the readings offers an answer to this question. The Risen Christ is found in the community of believers who follow the example of Jesus. Even non-believers recognised something marvellously different about the Christian community, and they exclaimed: These Christians, see how they love one another.

The Risen Christ is found in those who accept the truth of the resurrection on the word of others. The word of God preached by others has often brought us out of darkness into light, from the stranglehold of death to the birth of new life. The preaching of the disciples has been not only instructive, it has also been transformative.

The Risen Christ is found in the forgiveness of sin. Jesus made the frightened disciples ministers of divine forgiveness. The Spirit reconciles sinners with God and, thereby, with the rest of the believing community. Forgiveness is a tangible sign of Christ's mystical presence.

The Risen Christ is found in the physical manifestation of Christ's own wounds, the wounds that he offered to be touched. Since the community is the body of Christ, we touch the wounds of Christ when we touch the wounds of the community, when we go out to the sick and infirm, the dispossessed and the violated. As shocking as these wounds may appear, they are really glorious, because the Risen Lord has identified with them and has made them his own.

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## WELCOME TO ST LUKE'S

The commencement of a new Catholic faith community is the cause for celebration.

Appropriately, in the season of Easter, we celebrate this new life within the Church, the body of Christ.

Whether you are a resident of Marsden Park looking to make this your new worshipping community, someone from a nearby parish 'taking a look', or a member of another parish in the Diocese of Parramatta or beyond visiting to show your support, you are most welcome here today.

In the rapidly growing suburb of Marsden Park we hope the presence of a Catholic faith community will be a vital part of the development of a cohesive, inclusive and caring community.

Many of us may have grown up with a model of church where the priest, "Father", did everything and knew everything. However, our church today needs people who will step up to their Baptismal calling to model Jesus as priest, prophet and king, to use their gifts for the life of the church.

My hope is that the people of St Luke's will be this type of people. Not people who are consumer Catholics - coming to simply receive the Sacraments – but people who are alive in their faith, who want to make a contribution to the faith community.

Consumer Catholics are likely to come late to Mass, leave before the end of Mass, and rarely engage in a conversation with anyone in the faith community. It is a tick-the-box compliance model of faith. It is dangerous because it has no depth. It may only take a falling out with a priest or a parishioner or a life crisis event to shake them out of community.

By comparison, people who are alive in their faith – intentional disciples of Christ – take ownership of their faith. They want to grow in faith, learn more about Christ and his Church, and volunteer their time to make a difference in the church and beyond. Importantly, they also want to know the people of the worshipping community better – to really see them as sisters and brothers in Christ.

I hope that St Luke's is a community of intentional disciples. And, for that reason, I'm not going to tell you what my plans are for this community. We will work them out together in the months to come.

I just ask that you talk to me about the talents you have and how you might use them for the community.

I am grateful to Bishop Vincent for entrusting me with the role of Pastoral Director of this community. It is an exciting opportunity and one of great challenge. I could not do it without the support of my wife, Annette.

Annette and I look forward to working with you to do wonderful things here in Marsden Park.

May the Risen Lord deeply bless you on this occasion of great joy.

Deacon Tony Hoban  
Pastoral Director

### MESSAGE FROM BISHOP VINCENT

As Bishop of Parramatta I want to thank you for your interest in being part of the newest Catholic Church community in Australia.

Your presence here today is a sign of the Holy Spirit at work within the Marsden Park area.

I am excited about the potential for the Church community to be a vital part of the life of Marsden Park. To be recognised not just for what happens when you come together for worship but also for the difference you are able to make in the wider community.

This Catholic community is under the pastoral care of Deacon Tony Hoban who is well supported by his wife, Annette.

But Deacon Tony and Annette need to collaborate with many people for this community to be all that it can be.

Collaboration is the way that the Catholic Church needs to operate now, more than ever.

We know that our clergy cannot do everything – and nor should they. They need the help of many people if they are to enable faith communities to flourish.

I think that men like Deacon Tony, who are married and have lots of life experience in raising children, paying the mortgage and undertaking secular employment can bring much to the way the church is called to respond to the needs of people today and into the future.

Primarily, I think they bring knowledge of the need to collaborate with others in the way they undertake ministry.



So, I hope that each time I visit to see you that your community's growth and vibrancy will be a strong witness to collaboration as the hallmark of St Luke's.

I believe as you join together in Jesus Christ, that you will be a community with a great sense of hospitality, a community where people grow in faith, a community which looks outwards to the needs of people at the margins of our society.

This is such an exciting time as you launch a new faith community in a rapidly growing part of our Diocese.

I wish you every blessing as you set out on this journey.

(From a video message played at our recent BBQ and Chat event).

### OUR COMMUNITY PRAYER

O God

You show us in St Luke, our patron,  
a person of faith  
who desired all people to come to know  
and love you  
in the community of your Church.

Teach us to embrace what St Luke  
pioneered:  
discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Trusting in your love and grace  
and nourished by Word and Sacrament  
may we grow in our relationship with you  
and together make our Catholic Faith  
Community  
a community of communities,  
a sanctuary where the thirsty come to  
drink in the midst of their journey,  
and a centre of constant missionary  
outreach.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

St Luke, pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,  
pray for us.  
Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

## Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Lecture Series

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) has engaged Dr Laurie Woods to present on the Gospel of Mark. Venue: IFM, Marion St, Blacktown. Time: 10 am - 2pm. Dates: Friday April 13. All are welcome. BYO lunch. RSVPs to Maree 02 9890 4731

## NSW Pastoral Conference: 1 May

*NSW Pastoral Conference: Forming Missionary Disciples*: Join with pastoral council members, parish clergy, staff and volunteers across NSW to explore strategies for forming missionary disciples. How do we renew our baptismal call and enable our gifts in parish and school life? Tuesday 1 May, Lidcombe, cost \$65. Find out more: [www.tinyurl.com/disciples2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/disciples2018) or contact Tanya Quinn: 02 8838 3441 or [tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org](mailto:tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org)

## Discussion on Asylum Seekers and Refugees: 16 April

The Social Justice Commission of Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair invites you to a Table Talk: *Walking With Refugees And People Seeking Protection*. Monday 16 April from 7.30pm-9pm at Holy Spirit Church (5 Todd Row, St Clair). RSVP to Jacinta before Tuesday 10 April via [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) or 02 9670 8222.

## The Permanent Diaconate: 6 May

The discernment program for those who are interested in finding out more about this Vocation will be held at St John 23rd Parish, 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens. Come and learn more about vocations to the Diaconate and have a chat with our team members.

We are looking for men aged between 35 to 55 and residing in the Diocese of Parramatta. Our discernment program consists of five sessions, with each session dealing with different aspects of the Diaconate.

The meetings will commence at 3.00pm until 6.00pm followed by the Parish Mass and Fellowship. The 2018 dates on Sundays: 8 July, 9 September, 4 November.

For further information visit [www.parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate](http://www.parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate) or please contact any of the following deacons:

Deacon James – 0425 213 832,  
Deacon Tan – 0407 270 782,  
Deacon George – 0408 440 769

## Plenary Council 2020

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. All people are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" Find out more at: [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

## Positions Vacant

Risk Officer - Chancery Office, Parramatta  
Interviewer Tribunal Office, Parramatta  
For further information:

[www.parracatholic.org/employment](http://www.parracatholic.org/employment)

Credo Youth Group Coordinator -  
St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

For further information:

[www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

## PROCLAIM 2018: National Conference on Parish Renewal and Evangelisation 12 – 14 July 2018

The Archdiocese of Brisbane, in collaboration with the ACBC's National Centre for Evangelisation, will host *Proclaim 2018*. This national conference will engage parishes and faith communities in a conversation focusing on five key areas: Leadership, Culture Change, Young People, Belonging and Evangelisation.

During the conference participants can attend keynote presentations, expert panel sessions and discussions facilitated by leaders with 'on the ground' experience.

Keynote speakers include Cardinal John Dew (Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand), Ron Huntley (Divine Renovation – Canada), Ms Lana Turvey-Collins (Plenary Council 2020 Facilitator), Mons Enrique Fiquaredo SJ (Cambodia) and host of *Proclaim 2018* Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Archdiocese of Brisbane). To find out more visit

[www.proclaimconference.com.au](http://www.proclaimconference.com.au) and register at our early bird rate.

## Healing After Abortion Retreat: 13 - 15 April

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, Sydney offers regular healing retreats for those who have experienced an abortion. The retreat offers a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in a safe, supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. Information and a brochure can found at:

[www.rachelsvineyard.org.au](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.au) or call us on our confidential voicemail number 0400 092 555 or email [info@rachelsvineyard.org.au](mailto:info@rachelsvineyard.org.au).

## Australian Catholic Historical Society Lecture: 15 April

Mr Stephen Crittenden, Ms Maha Melhem, Ms Anna Tydd, - The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Admission is free and open to all. Visit the ACHS website [www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au) for more information.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 27-29 April

A marriage enrichment experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time to invest in your most precious asset – your Marriage! Date: 27–29 April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or Adrian and Janet Sullivan on 0490 774 419 or [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)

## SUNDAY MASS

Every Sunday 10.00am in The Hub  
St Luke's College  
Enter via Frontier Ave  
Marsden Park

## PLEASE SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

Our community offers many gifts and these include some key ways you can help St Luke's to grow at this time.

Please contact us if you would like to be involved in the following areas of ministry:

- Provider of after-Mass food
- Welcomer/warden
- Acolyte or Senior Server
- Reader
- Altar Server
- Children's liturgy 'teacher'
- Musician/singer
- Flower arranger

If you are unsure what you can offer or would like someone to contact you about your ideas or what opportunities exist, please contact us.

## SACRAMENTAL ENQUIRIES?

For Baptisms, Weddings, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and First Holy Communion etc, please contact us.

**Contact information is on back page.**

## SCHOOL ENQUIRIES

St Luke's College  
02 9854 3100  
[www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au)





**The Archangel Gabriel**, is one of God's special messengers. He appeared to the prophet Daniel and helped him to understand the visions in his dreams, and was sent to tell Zechariah of the birth of his son, John the Baptist. He left Zechariah without the ability to speak for his disbelief of the message. Gabriel is best known as the angel who sent Mary tidings of the future birth of Jesus - the Annunciation of the Lord. His feast was traditionally associated with the Annunciation, but his feast day is now shared with the other archangels, Michael and Raphael, on the 29th of September. He is the patron saint of many communications industries and workers such as post, telephone, radio and television.



# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

afraid	forgive	Lord
appeared	hand	middle
doubting	happy	Thomas
faith	Holy Spirit	week

N	R	Y	P	W	R	P	Y	K	K	O	I	E	A	D	V
P	K	R	Z	O	H	W	E	H	H	A	P	C	E	E	F
R	O	V	G	A	H	E	G	O	U	K	W	F	C	O	T
Q	Z	L	N	N	W	S	L	E	H	D	B	U	R	J	D
R	E	D	R	S	I	Y	H	C	T	Y	M	G	A	X	D
V	G	K	M	G	S	T	X	G	P	P	I	K	K	X	R
N	A	C	J	P	I	L	B	P	D	V	V	V	F	A	O
V	C	F	I	A	B	X	A	U	E	Q	U	Y	J	D	L
K	D	R	F	S	P	H	N	J	O	Y	J	D	I	E	Q
R	I	E	W	V	E	N	V	S	F	D	I	A	X	L	S
T	W	J	R	R	N	T	E	A	Z	X	R	S	W	D	V
C	X	F	S	A	U	H	Y	M	A	F	V	I	K	D	B
X	G	Y	T	J	E	C	Q	O	A	P	L	G	Y	I	Q
C	L	U	O	J	W	P	A	H	L	U	S	L	J	M	O
Z	L	S	O	H	N	Z	P	T	S	X	U	Y	C	T	M
L	T	P	N	K	G	T	Y	A	J	O	J	W	K	X	K



Thomas had doubts about Jesus being alive. He wanted to see Jesus' hands and side before he would believe that Jesus had come back to life. Re-arrange the tiles to discover the important message Jesus gave to Thomas.

me and yet	they believe.	those who h	Blessed are	ave not seen

## CONTACT US

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