

**OUR VISION:**

**"WE ARE CONTINUALLY ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO ST LUKE'S AND EVERYONE WHO COMMITS TO BEING A MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY IS TRANSFORMED IN EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIFE BY HAVING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS."**

**First Reading**

Gen 15:5-12. 17-18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

**Second reading**

Phil 3:17 – 4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make gods of themselves and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

**Gospel**

Lk 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

**Reflection:**

Lent is a transformative time, a time to shed those habits that diminish us as human beings. It was in prayer that Jesus was changed and transformed.

- How can we use this period of Lent to commit to a time of prayer each day - or to an extra time of prayer each day? It could be as simple as a breath prayer, prayed for just one minute: Choose a simple prayer that can be prayed in two phrases - one on the in-breath and one on the out-breath, such as:

- Loving God ... bring peace.
- God of compassion ... live in me.
- Merciful God ... come near.
- 'Yes,' God ... I choose you.

Prayer changes us. If our everyday activities became moments of prayer, we could be continuously transformed and become what we love. Can our everyday lives be transformed, every moment with awareness of God's presence?

- Making beds - thanksgiving for sleep; for rest; for loving relationships.
- Washing dishes and clothes - cleanse me from my sins; make me whiter than snow - call to mind our sins and ask forgiveness.



- Dusting - we are made from dust and to dust we return. An opportunity to pray for others.
- Gardening or caring for pets - bringing to awareness the sacredness of all creation.
- Cooking - the gift of hospitality - sharing with others; nurture of body and soul.
- Sweeping, mopping and vacuuming - what are the things I want to let go of today? To sweep out of my life?
- Packing the dishwasher - a little examen - what needs to fit in my life, and what can be put aside?
- Driving the car or the sound of a siren - prayer for emergency service workers and those in distress.

From Evangelisation Brisbane:

[www.lentprogram.com](http://www.lentprogram.com)

24<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

**MINISTRY ROSTER**

Welcomers: Volunteers needed

Hospitality: Volunteer needed

Acolyte: James Irudayaraj

Servers: Jessica, Qwayn, Tissa

Readers: Ofelia Lumba (F), Luanshya Naidoo (S), Nars Lumba (I)

Eucharistic Min: Randy Hipolito

Children's Liturgy: Cristina, Sinta, Lavanya, Annette

**If you are not able to fulfil your ministry role, or if you would like to volunteer for a vacant role, please email [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)**

**We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr John Hogan**

## 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 center 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.

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ON REQUEST –  
PLEASE SEE ACOLYTE BEFORE MASS**

### Bishop Vincent's Pastoral Letter

Bishop Vincent's pastoral letter to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta can be found at:

[catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-pastoral-letter](http://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-pastoral-letter)

### Join St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Parramatta is recruiting singers! This is an exciting opportunity to join a group of highly talented musicians. For further information visit [stpatscathedral.com.au/music](http://stpatscathedral.com.au/music) or contact the Music Director, Bernard Kirkpatrick on 0430 431 884

### Mt Schoenstatt: 29 - 30 March

24 hours of Adoration for the Lord, 2019 at Mt Schoenstatt. Where: Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Time: Begins with Holy Mass at 6pm on Friday 29 March, finishing with Holy Mass at 5pm on Saturday 30 March. Each hour will have reflection and music presented by different groups and individuals. Every half hour the Shrine will be silent for prayer and reflection. Come for 1 hour or 24, no obligation for a particular time period. Enquires for groups or individuals: [manager@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:manager@schoenstatt.org.au) or phone Ann-Maree: 02 4773 8338.

### St Luke's Lenten Retreat: 6 April

Come and join us for a special Lenten Retreat morning on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. The morning will include prayer and reflection, discussion and community. We will start at 9.30am and conclude with lunch at 12.30pm. It will be held at our new office at 2 Springdale St, Marsden Park (off Frontier Avenue and opposite St Luke's Catholic College). Expressions of interest to: [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

### First Communion: 19 May

We will celebrate First Holy Communion at St Luke's on Sunday, May 19 at our usual 10am Mass. Preparation classes for children and their parents will be held on Wednesdays April 3 and 10 and then May 8 and 15 at 6pm at St Luke's Catholic College (Hub). This is available for children who have made the First Reconciliation and are aged 9/in Year 4. Please take a Sacraments of Initiation enrolment form from the Welcome Table and return it asap.

### Fridays during Lent

Stations of the Cross will be held this Friday night, starting at 7.00pm, at 2 Springdale St, Marsden Park. All are welcome!

## LENT 2019 | Prayer. Fasting. Almsgiving.

### SUNDAY MARCH 17

Today's Gospel shares the story of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Spend time reflecting on the glory of Jesus.

### MONDAY MARCH 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, honoured today, was known for his "Catechetical Instructions." Give thanks for the catechists in your community and all they do to educate children and adults alike.

### TUESDAY MARCH 19

On the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we pray today for all fathers, that through the example of St. Joseph, they may fully embrace their vocation and accept the privilege and responsibility of caring for their children as St. Joseph cared for Jesus.

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 20

Consider contacting someone who you haven't spoken to for some time and let them know you are thinking of them.

### THURSDAY MARCH 21

When confronted with your own weakness during Lent, don't give in to anger, frustration, and self-pity. Be patient, and see yourself as God does, with unconditional love.

### FRIDAY MARCH 22

Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we can choose to remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer.

### SATURDAY MARCH 23

Today, we mark the feast day of St Turibius of Mogrovejo, a Spanish born evangelizer who was sent as a missionary to Peru and opened the first seminary in the New World. In his honour, pray for vocations.

### Volunteers Urgently Needed for Visiting Residents of Aged Care Facility

Are you interested in visiting an elderly person in a nursing home who has no or very few visitors? You would visit once every two weeks with CatholicCare providing training and support. After learning your interests, we will match you with a resident in a nursing home within approx 10km of your home. The visit is within the nursing home – you do not take the person on outings or shopping etc. For more information, contact Deb Woolcott on 0418 114 055 or [deb.woolcott@ccss.org.au](mailto:deb.woolcott@ccss.org.au).

### Communion to the Sick at Blacktown Hospital

We urgently require people to take Holy Communion to patients in Blacktown Hospital on Sundays. Volunteers are currently rostered on every second month (6 times annually). Distribution of Communion takes about 2 to 3 hours. Security checks required and carpark access available. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who can help with this important ministry please contact Deacon George Bryan at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown either via the parish office or via at [George.Bryan@parracatholic.org](mailto:George.Bryan@parracatholic.org)



**IF YOU DO NOT WANT PHOTOS OF YOURSELF OR YOUR CHILDREN TAKEN OR PUBLISHED PLEASE FORWARD AN EMAIL TO [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org) ADVISING US OF THIS!**

### SUNDAY MASS

Every Sunday 10.00am in The Hub

St Luke's Catholic College (Enter via Frontier Ave Marsden Park)

### CONTACT US

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Deacon Tony Hoban

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**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

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