

**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**

Jer 38:4-6. 8-10

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

*Lord, come to my aid!*

**Second reading**

Heb 12:1-4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

**Gospel**

Lk 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over! 'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

**Reflection: Alpha and the Catholic Church**

With us talking a lot about the Alpha course, some have questioned us about the view of the Catholic Church on this program. Well, here are the views of some leaders in the Church:

"Alpha brings people closer and helps them to find that power which unites. The Alpha experience is not only a means through which one finds true life, but also a way to share the good news of the Living Christ." - Cardinal Mark Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America at the Vatican.

"For many years now and in various parts of the world, Alpha has shown itself powerful in bringing faith alive in all kinds of people. Its focus is on Jesus, its method is simple and its appeal is wide-ranging. It is also well adapted for use in Catholic communities looking to provide the kind of ignition we need if we are to become a more missionary Church." - Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane.

"I have had the privilege of participating in various Alphas in Quebec and have witnessed how lives are changed and how the participants are touched by the teachings, witnessing and fellowship experienced during the course. The method is simple yet very



effective. Small groups are definitely a key to the success of this tool of New Evangelisation.' - Cardinal Gérald Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec, Canada. Alpha is a program that can re-awaken something in the lives of existing Catholics or ignite something new in the hearts of people who are not yet Catholic. Please consider giving it a try on September 7 at 7pm when we will have some food, a video and then a small group discussion. Sign up after Mass or email us at [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org).

- Deacon Tony Hoban  
Pastoral Director

24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Aug – 21<sup>st</sup> Sund Ord Time

**MINISTRY ROSTER**

Welcomers:

Sat – Volunteer req'd

Sun – Meli S.

Acolyte:

Sat – Volunteer req'd

Sun – Arvin

Servers:

Sat – Denver

Sun – Denver, Andrei, Ava

Readers:

Sat - Corrie (1) Aileen (2) Marie (1)

Sun – Meli S. (1) Bobs Reyes (2)

Elvie Reyes (1)

Eucharistic Min:

Sat – Varuni

Sun – Ana

Hospitality: Volunteers req'd

Children's Liturgy: Sinta, Cristina, Meli S., Annette

**We welcome this week as our Celebrants:  
Fr Ed Kenny/Fr Chris de Souza**

## 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.

## Plenary Council 2020: Discernment Phase 2 - Information and Training Sessions

Aug 19 – Cathedral Hall 6-9pm

Aug 22 – IFM Blacktown 6-9pm

Aug 28 – IFM Blacktown 10.30am-1.30

Aug 31 – Emu Plains Parish 2.30-5.30pm

Sept 7 – Springwood School Hall 9am-12

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP: [tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org](mailto:tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### EXTRA MASS

We will be trialling an extra Mass here at St Luke's during August - a Vigil Mass on Saturday nights at 6pm. This extra Mass means that we will need extra people to fill rostered positions as welcomers, readers, Acolytes, Ministers of Communion and wardens. Rosters for August (for both the 10am Sunday Mass and the new 6pm Vigil Mass) are now available at the Welcome Table in the foyer.

## 2019 Vinnies Community Sleepout Western Sydney: 30 August

Join us on Friday 30 August at Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus for a night of information, discussion and experiential activities, all before bedding down on the University's campus to experience just a taste of what it's like to sleep rough for a night. By making the commitment to spend a night without the creature comforts of home, you'll be helping to raise both awareness of the issue and much-needed funds to help those at risk. For further information contact Janice Stokes on 0484 100 208 or email [fundraising.westsyd@vinnies.org.au](mailto:fundraising.westsyd@vinnies.org.au) Bring: Warm clothing, sleeping bag, pillow and a water bottle!

**2019 Faith in Marriage Seminar: 30 August**  
American Catholic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is the guest speaker at The Life, Family and Marriage Office's 2019 Faith in

Marriage Seminar on Friday 30 August at St Paul's Catholic College Hall, Greystanes from 7.30pm. Free entry and a light supper will be served afterwards. Donations are welcome. Please register your attendance to 02 8838 3460 or [lmf@parracatholic.org](mailto:lmf@parracatholic.org)

## Bishop's Annual Appeal for Retired and Sick Priests: 1 September

There will be a special collection for the Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese – on Father's Day. Your donation helps them cover healthcare costs and expenses associated with everyday living, supplementing the pension that some receive. Please **give generously** this Father's Day Appeal. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Donations can be made here: [parracatholic.org/csf](http://parracatholic.org/csf)

## Alpha at St Luke's: 7 September

Alpha begins on Saturday 7 September at 7pm in the Hub at St Luke's. It is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha has three elements: food (a great way to build community and get to know each other), a video presentation, (about 30 min and designed to engage and inspire conversation), and small group discussions (the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic). For more information or to register call 8840 8521 or email [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

## CYP Convent Crawl: 7 September

Catholic Youth Parramatta are organising a 'Convent Crawl' – an opportunity for young women to experience a day-long journey glimpsing the life of consecrated women. Join CYP as they visit four Religious communities across the Diocese of Parramatta. 7 September from 6am to 8.30pm. To register, please visit [parracatholic.org/conventcrawl](http://parracatholic.org/conventcrawl). For inquiries, please contact [qwayne.guevara@parracatholic.org](mailto:qwayne.guevara@parracatholic.org)

## Sacrament of Confirmation at St Luke's: 20 October

We will soon start preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Luke's. This is for children who are aged 10 or older and who have already been Baptised, made their First Reconciliation and First Communion. Preparation sessions will be held at St Luke's Catholic College in the Hub on Wednesday evenings in September at 6pm: September 4, 11, 18 and 25, with Confirmations during Sunday morning Mass on October 20 at 10am. If you would like your child to be involved, please complete one of the 'Sacraments of Initiation' forms on the Welcome Table and bring it back

with a copy of your child's Baptism certificate next week – or email it to [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org).

## Youth Corner



Calling all high school aged saints in training! Come and join our 'Mission' Friday nights twice a month from 7pm-8.50pm at the office (2 Springdale St). Prepare for Fun, Faith, Food and Fellowship! Our mission - to become saints... will you accept? Upcoming meetings: **13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September.**

\*Are your gifts & talents in the kitchen? We need you! We require more volunteers to assist with providing a meal for the youth group. We would love it if you are able to commit to a regular roster or even just as a one off. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

\*ST Luke's first ever Youth-led Mass is Coming - Saturday 14th September at the 6pm Vigil. Now we just need the Youth! If you are aged between 12-35 and would like to be involved in any ministry for this Mass please contact us! Ministries include: welcomers, power point operator, offertory, readers, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, singers and musicians. For any further enquiries you can contact us on 88408521 or at our new youth email [saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

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

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 6pm Vigil  
Sunday 10.00am

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

Baptisms available most Sundays after Mass. Apply via email.

## CONTACT US

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Deacon Tony Hoban

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**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

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