

**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**

2 Sam 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

*Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

**Second reading**

Col 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

**Gospel**

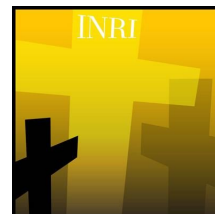
Lk 23:35-43

The people stayed there before the cross, watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to

offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

**Reflection: Positive human actions in a time of crisis**

Having spent much of this week up in fire affected areas on the mid-north coast, I have returned with a great appreciation of the great positive power that people can muster when they decide to work together in a spirit of collaboration, self-sacrifice and communal spirit. I spent time in Kempsey and Macksville at centres set up to respond to people affected by bushfires. I witnessed so many positive and heart-warming examples of the best of human nature: the loving support that people showed for their neighbours – regardless of whether they had been worse or less affected by the fires than themselves, the great resilience of people who have lost their homes and possessions, the gratitude of people for everything that they received – from a meal, a cup of coffee, a listening ear, fodder for their cattle, the wonderful collaboration of so many agencies, from Red Cross, to Anglicare, mental health providers, disaster welfare volunteers, government departments, the rural fire service and other emergency service providers and our disaster relief chaplains. There were heartbreaking stories of loss. People who had built their house with their own hands who now have only burnt out rubble. Precious family items of significance, passed on from generation to generation, now shattered amidst the ashes. Families with up to 6 children who now have nowhere to live and few possessions remaining. People faced with the dilemma of whether to rebuild or to



move elsewhere – or even the question of whether they can afford to house their families at all.

Amidst this there were also less attractive sides of human nature that were on display – some people wanting to take more than their fair share of the goods on offer, some cases of looting of fire affected properties, some people using their idle time to over indulge in alcohol and then behaving in unsociable ways.

But the overwhelming experience was that of positive human actions in a time of crisis. If you are able to, please donate to one of the fire relief charities – eg Vinnies at (<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-bushfire-appeal-nsw>). And please pray for those impacted by the bushfires. The fires are far from being extinguished and many people are still not able to return to their homes. Towns are full of people living in motels and B&Bs because they cannot go home. The rebuilding will take months or years. The emotional cost, for some, will last for the rest of their lives. They need our ongoing support and prayers.

- Deacon Tony Hoban  
Pastoral Director

1<sup>st</sup> December

**MINISTRY ROSTER**

Welcomers:

Juanita

Acolyte:

Volunteer welcome

Servers:

Ava, Denver, Gab

Readers:

Andy Garcia (1), Ofelia Lumba (2), Nars Lumba (1)

Eucharistic Min:

Ana

Hospitality:

Volunteers welcome

Children's Liturgy

Sinta, Sindhu, Diana, Annette

**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.

### Positions Vacant

\*CatholicCare Mamre Creche volunteers

\*Clergy Healthcare and Administration Support Officer (Part time) – Diocese of Parramatta

More details [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

\*Deputy Principal (Catholic Identity) – St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, Humpty Doo, NT

\*Manager Work Health and Safety – Catholic Education Office, Darwin, NT  
For more details, please visit [www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/](http://www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/current-vacancies/)

### Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Help vulnerable people in crisis turn their lives around, recover and thrive. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare to connect people with support and services to build strong foundations for self-sufficiency, fulfilling family relationships and brighter futures. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal via [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

### Gifts of Faith

This Christmas give a gift with faith at the centre. The Catholic charity *Aid to the Church in Need* has produced a Gift of Faith catalogue in support of suffering and persecuted Christians. Copies can be found on the Welcome Table in the foyer. Or visit [www.aidtochurch.org/GiftsofFaith](http://www.aidtochurch.org/GiftsofFaith) or phone 1800 101 201. Order by 9 December to receive your Gift of Faith cards and envelopes in time for Christmas.

### ACBC National Prayer Campaign for Drought

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November.

People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national – and so should the response be national. Access resources at: [www.catholic.org.au/drought](http://www.catholic.org.au/drought)

### CEDP High Support Learning Centres

Kirinari, located in Llandilo and Wiyanga, located in Dudas, are purpose-built centres for learning that provide an inclusive education for students with a moderate intellectual disability and high support needs. If you have a child or know someone who would benefit from an alternate platform for learning in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, please phone 02 9840 5689 for further information.

### Wisdom of the Desert Retreat: 29 November – 6 December

Carmel Moore rsj and Jan Wylie will lead participants at the "Wisdom of the Desert" retreat at St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre, Galong, NSW, from 29 November to 6 December. Attend for either the weekend or for six days. There will be several periods of meditation, daily talks and quietness and prayer. For enquiries and booking, contact [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au) or phone 02 6380 5222.

### Bach Akademie Australia Concert: 30 November

Bach Akademie Australia will present its Cantatas for Christmas – Comfort and Joy, including Part 2 of the Christmas Oratorio and BWV 191 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on 30 November at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased through the Box Office on 1300 785 377 or <https://cantatasforchristmas.floktu.com/>

### St Luke's Local News

Volunteers are needed for our annual Carols evening on Saturday 7 December from 6-8pm at St Luke's Catholic College. Please talk to us after Mass or via email if you can help with Music, logistics, cooking the BBQ, selling food/drinks, preparing lolly bags.

### Youth Corner

Email: [saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

### Youth Mass

A big thank you to all involved in the November Youth-led Mass last Sunday! Youth Mass will resume in February next year with dates to be announced shortly.

If you are aged 12-35 and would like to be involved in one of the ministries next year please email the youth team.

### Saints-in-Training - High school Youth Group

Our final youth group meeting for 2019 will be Friday 6th December 7pm- 8:45pm in the office. This will be our Christmas themed evening with plenty of fun games and great food to enjoy! All high school aged students are welcome! For more information please contact the Youth Team.

### We need You!

#### Meal preparation

We currently have some wonderful parent helpers who provide meals for the youth group. However, we still need further assistance. If you are able to assist next year either as a one off or be part of a roster (however regularly you are able to contribute) please contact the Youth Team.

#### Youth Leaders

We currently have a small team of leaders who plan, run and organise the youth group evenings twice a month. However, with the growth of the youth group, we need more volunteers to assist and become part of the team. If you have experience in youth ministry or would like to be involved in youth ministry please contact us! You must have a current working with children check but further training can be provided if needed. Please contact the youth team for further information.



### WEEKEND MASS

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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Postal Address:

PO Box 85, Plumpton NSW 2761

**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

[www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au)