

**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**

Is 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, ‘Courage! Do not be afraid. ‘Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

*Lord, come and save us.*

**Second reading**

Jas 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel**

Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the

poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’

**Reflection: STAYING AWAKE**

The distractions and worries of daily life tend to so consume us that we habitually take for granted what’s most precious to us, our health, the miracle of our senses, the love and friendships that surround us, and the gift of life itself. How do we wake up? Today there’s a rich literature that offers us all kinds of advice on how to get into the present moment so as to be awake to the deep riches inside our own lives. While much of this literature is good, little of it is very effective. It invites us to live each day of our lives as if was our last day, but we simply can’t do that. It’s impossible to sustain that kind of intentionality and awareness over a long period of time. The distractions, cares, and pressures of everyday life will invariably have their way with us, and we will, in effect, fall asleep to what’s deeper and more important inside of life. But it’s for this reason that every major spiritual tradition has daily rituals designed precisely to wake us from spiritual sleep, akin an alarm clock waking us from physical sleep. It’s for this reason we need to begin each day with prayer. What happens if we don’t pray on a given morning is not that we incur God’s wrath, but rather that we



tend to miss the morning, spending the hours until noon trapped inside a certain dullness of heart. The same can be said about praying before meals. We don’t displease God by not first centering ourselves in gratitude before eating, but we miss out on the richness of what we’re doing. Liturgical prayer and the Eucharist have the same intent, among their other intentions. They’re meant to, regularly, call us out of a certain sleep. None of us lives each day of our lives as if it was his or her last day. Our heartaches, headaches, distractions, and busyness invariably lull us to sleep. That’s forgivable; it’s what it means to be human. So, we should ensure that we have regular spiritual rituals, spiritual alarm clocks, to jolt us back awake.

• Fr Ron Rolheiser, OMI

**We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr Mick O’Callaghan**

22<sup>nd</sup> December

**MINISTRY ROSTER**

Welcomers:

Juanita, Anne

Acolyte:

Volunteer req’d

Servers:

Gab, Denver, Andrei

Readers:

CFCA

Eucharistic Min:

Gari de Guzman

Hospitality:

CFCA

## 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

\*Facilities Maintenance Officer - Diocese of Parramatta (Applications close 16 Dec)  
\*CatholicCare Mamre Creche volunteers  
More details [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

### 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)

### The Epiphany Pilgrimage

The Epiphany Pilgrimage, through the Blue Mountains, is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk 110km through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland, celebrating the Christmas season with each parish along the way. Registration and details at [epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://epiphanypilgrimage.org) and [facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage](https://facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage)

### Office for Worship Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

The Office for Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be held again next year, commencing early February 2020. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 8838 3456 or [anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org](mailto:anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org).

### Handel's Messiah at St Patrick's Cathedral: 17 December

To end their inaugural year, River City Voices is proud to present an intimate performance of Handel's *Messiah* for Western Sydney audiences. The

performance will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on 17 December at 7.30pm. For information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.classikon.com/concert/river-city-voices-parramatta-2019-december-17/>

### Glenbrook Parish Christmas concert: 22 December

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook's tradition Christmas concert will be held on Sunday 22 December at 7.30pm. Join the great organ in singing carols with the choir and congregation and rejoice in the Hallelujah Chorus with trumpets and timpani. Entry via donations – families \$34 and individuals \$15. For enquiries contact (02) 4754 1780.

### Kellyville Parish Mass of the Holy Innocents: 28 December

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, is holding their annual Mass of the Holy Innocents on 28 December at 11am. Fr David Blowey OFM Conv will celebrate Mass, followed by a Rosary procession to the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Lunch will be available and please bring a plate to share. For enquiries, please contact the parish office on (02) 9629 2595.

### Feast of the Holy Family Celebration: 28 December

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth invite families and young people aged 18 to 35 to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on 28 Dec at Our Lady Queen of Poland Convent in Marayong. Mass at 3pm, Adoration 4.30pm. RSVP Sr Paula by 26 Dec 0449 656 406 or [vocationscfn@gmail.com](mailto:vocationscfn@gmail.com).

### Catholic Mission Camino 2020 Pilgrimages:

Catholic Mission is organising two pilgrimages to walk the Camino Portugués (17 days) from 11 to 27 May 2020 and the Camino Francés (16 days) from 19 September to 5 October. Each pilgrimage will offer small groups lead by an experience guide. For more information, please contact Sr Veronica Rosier OP on 0451 387 906 or visit [www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020)

### Local Christmas Mass Times

The Good Shepherd Plumpton  
Vigil 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm & 8pm, Midnight Mass, Christmas Day 7am & 9am  
Reconciliation every Saturday 11am-12  
Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill  
Vigil 24<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm & 9.30pm, Midnight Mass, Christmas Day 8am & 10am  
Reconciliation every Saturday 4pm-5  
St John the Evangelist Riverstone  
Vigil 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm & 9pm  
Christmas Day 7am & 9am  
Reconciliation 21/12 10am-11, 4pm-5.30, 24/12 10am-11

## St Luke's Local News

### Mother of Perpetual Help Novena

Will be held every Wednesday from 7.30-8.00pm at 2 Springdale St (opposite St Luke's Catholic College)

### St Luke's Mass times

Vigil 24<sup>th</sup> 7pm  
Christmas Day 10am

## Youth Corner



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

## 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

Pastoral Director:

Deacon Tony Hoban

Phone:

(02) 8840 8521

Email:

[marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

Website:

[stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au](http://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark)

Address:

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

Postal Address:

PO Box 85, Plumpton NSW 2761

**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

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