

**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 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

*Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

**Second reading**

Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**Gospel**

Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed

to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: *The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.* When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**Reflection: An Open Invitation**

It is at Christmas that many people attend Mass for just their second time in the year. Some regular churchgoers view these people negatively and scoff at why they bother with the church if they can only make it twice a year. But others take the view that we need to do our best to make these people feel welcome at these times, in an effort to help open their hearts to perhaps engaging with the church more than they have. And I think it is the latter position that is the healthier. No one can be forced to believe; we all need to accept the invitation that Jesus gives us to be his followers. The gift of the real, true, and fulfilling life that Jesus offers is never going to be forced on us. We can choose to unwrap the gift, to put it in a corner to be considered for opening at a later time, or thrown out altogether. We can be Jesus’ helpers in offering his gift to people we know.



Perhaps there are neighbours, friends or family members who you know who have had a past association with the Church. Perhaps, just perhaps, they may have been waiting for an invitation to come back. Is there anyone you could invite along to Mass this Christmas with you?

The worst thing that can happen is that they might say ‘no.’ The best thing that can happen is that this invitation leads them to gradually accepting the gifts of Jesus and taking up the invitation to follow Him.

- Deacon Tony Hoban  
Pastoral Director

**We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Bishop Vincent Long**

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December

**MINISTRY ROSTER**

Welcomers:

24<sup>th</sup> – Vol req’d

25<sup>th</sup> - Juanita, Anne

Acolyte:

24<sup>th</sup> – Arvin Joya

25<sup>th</sup> – Jamie Hoban

Servers:

24<sup>th</sup> – Gab

25<sup>th</sup> – Gab, Denver

Readers:

24<sup>th</sup> – Monique (1), Gabrielle (2), Meli

25<sup>th</sup> – Ofelia (1), Nars (2), Vol Req’d

Eucharistic Min:

24<sup>th</sup> - Gari de Guzman

25<sup>th</sup> – Vol req’d

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

### Bishop Vincent's Christmas Message

Bishop Vincent's Christmas message can be viewed online at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqtMPFd06Y4> or [www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)  
Happy Christmas from Bishop Vincent and the Diocese of Parramatta.

### 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).

### St Bernadette's Lalor Park Wednesday Evening Devotions

St Bernadette's Parish, Lalor Park, is hosting weekly devotions to Mary Immaculate and St Bernadette and Adoration of the Blessed Sacraments every Wednesday evening at 7pm, followed by Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, contact the parish office on 02 9672 4037 or [admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadetteslalorpark.org.au)

### 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, 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).

### Annual Red Mass: 28 January 2020

Bishop Vincent Long and Fr Bob Bossini warmly invite members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass on 28 January at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served after Mass. RSVP 20/1 8839 8411 or [events@stpatscathedral.com.au](mailto:events@stpatscathedral.com.au).

### 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. 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 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

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Deacon Tony Hoban

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**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)