

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

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second reading

Col 3:12-21

You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to

resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel

Mt 2:13-15. 19-23

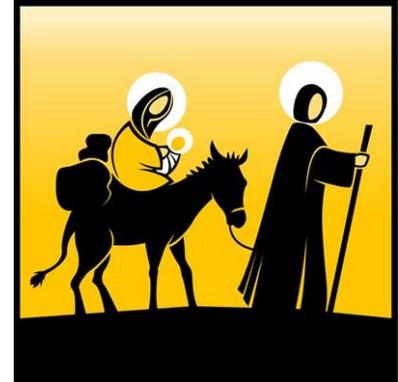
After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.’ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod’s death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.’ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

Reflection: Today’s liturgy celebrates the feast of the Holy Family; recognising the important role Joseph and Mary played in the life of Jesus and also celebrating the role of family in all of our lives. However, the gospel reading is the conclusion of the infancy narrative – the ‘what happened next’ part of the story of the birth of Jesus. Apart from the involvement of the holy family, the passage doesn’t appear to have a lot of connection with the celebration of the feast of the Holy Family. This isn’t really surprising as the gospels are accounts of the life of Jesus – predominantly his active ministry – and don’t give many details at all of his childhood and family life. However,



what we can see in the passage is that Joseph quickly adopted a role of protector of his wife and child and did all he could to keep them from harm. His family was vitally important to Joseph and he took the extreme measure of fleeing his homeland to protect them. The passage in the lectionary skips over three verses from the gospel (16-18) that describe Herod’s massacre of all boys under the age of two born in Bethlehem and its surrounds. Joseph’s fears for the safety of his family were very real! Even after the death of Herod, when Joseph is advised to return to his own country, he finds that Archelaus, one of Herod’s sons, is in control of Judaea. Bethlehem was in Judaea and so Joseph and his family may still have been in danger. Instead of returning home, they made a new life in Nazareth in the Galilee region.

- Greg Sunter

5th January
MINISTRY ROSTER
Welcomers:
 Vol req’d
Acolyte:
 Vol req’d
Servers:
 Gab, Denver
Readers:
 Elvie Reyes (1), Luanshya Naidoo (2),
 Bobs Reyes (1)
Eucharistic Min:
 Gari de Guzman
Hospitality:
 Vol Req’d

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

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

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

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

Catholic Healthcare

Government-funded Home Care Packages. Catholic Healthcare's local Care Advisors can work with you to create a customised support plan. Their in-home services include gardening, shopping, meal preparation, transport and nursing. Get a quote on 1300 734 350

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.

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

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 28/1 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served after Mass. RSVP 20/1 8839 8411 or events@stpatricscathedral.com.au.

Greystanes Parish Biblical Studies Part 2: February 2020

Throughout the month of February, Fr Joseph Lam from Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, will run a series of biblical studies on Prophetic Literature in the Old Testament. Sessions held every Thursday in February and on 5 March from 7.30-9pm. parishoffice@olqp.org.au for registration and where to obtain the recommended reading list.

Pastoral Planning Alpha Team Training Workshop: 9 February 2020

The Pastoral Planning Office is running a training day in the Alpha Catholic program at the IFM Blacktown, Sunday 9 February, 9.30am – 4.30pm. To register, and for more information, please contact Lisa in the Pastoral Planning Office on 8838 3497 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2020

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, St Patrick's Church, Blacktown at 10.30am. The Mass will include the Sacramental Rite of Anointing of the Sick and Prayers for Healing. RSVP Marisa VanderHout at marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org or 88383460.

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

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)

Youth Corner

Email: 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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