

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 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Second reading

Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: ‘The truth I have now come to realise’ he said ‘is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. ‘It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.’

Gospel

Mt 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. ‘It is I who need baptism from you,’ he said ‘and yet you come to me!’ But Jesus replied, ‘Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.’ At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw

the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.’

Reflection: These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child’s character to a ‘must be decided on later’ category. Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practice of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today’s Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was ‘the proper thing to do’. We hold very strongly to the idea that God always does the ‘proper thing’. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John’s baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty. Jesus’ experience of baptism starts with John’s baptism as an admission of guilt



and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father’s love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God’s love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father’s love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate, say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

- Fr Richard Leonard

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

19th January

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers:

Jerick & Dess

Acolyte:

Vol req’d

Servers:

Gab, Rohit, Ryan

Readers:

Elvie Reyes (1), Bobs Reyes (2), Ning (1)

Eucharistic Min:

Varuni Emerson

Hospitality:

International food day

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

Bushfire Response:

Australia is currently facing an unprecedented bushfire crisis in many parts of the country. The Australian Bishops have announced that special collections will be taken at Masses on Australia Day weekend to support affected communities. They have also urged Catholics to pray constantly for those affected, for those fighting the fires and for an end to the bushfires. To access prayer resources or for more information, visit www.catholic.org.au/bushfires

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, in early February 2020. If you are interested 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 Sacrament 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

Maltese Community Council of NSW

Australia Day Celebration: 19 January

All are welcome to join the Maltese community to celebrate Australia Day at the Holroyd Function Centre, 17 Miller Street Merrylands, from 4pm-6pm on Sunday 19th January. Parking is available on site and light refreshments will be served afterwards.

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@stpatricks cathedral.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

Our first 'Saints-in-Training' youth group meeting for 2020 will be on Friday 31st January. We will no longer be providing dinner at the start of the meeting, but will begin our activities at the usual time of 7pm-8.45pm at 2 Springdale St.

The first Youth Mass for 2020 will be on Sunday 16th February. If you are aged 12-35 and would like to participate in any of the ministries in this Mass please email us! Rehearsal date for musicians will be announced shortly.

Email: saintlukesyg@gmail.com

We need You!

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

Website:

stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

Facebook:

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