

**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 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**Second reading**

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

**Gospel**

Mt 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. ‘Where is the infant king of the Jews?’ they asked. ‘We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.’ When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ‘At Bethlehem in Judaea,’ they told him, ‘for this is what the

prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.’ Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. ‘Go and find out all about the child,’ he said ‘and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.’ Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

**Reflection: Stars and Seekers of Truth**

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control this infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, ‘by a different way’. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child. Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.



As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth. We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: ‘the Love which moves the sun and other stars’. Come, let us adore him.

- Fr Michael Tate

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

<p>12<sup>th</sup> January  <b>MINISTRY ROSTER</b>  <u>Welcomers:</u>          Juanita  <u>Acolyte:</u>          Vol req'd  <u>Servers:</u>          Gab, Rohit, Ryan  <u>Readers:</u>          CFCA (1), CFCA (2), CFCA (1)  <u>Eucharistic Min:</u>          Gari de Guzman  <u>Hospitality:</u>          CFCA</p>
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## 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)

### 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](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)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

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**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)