

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 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v.1

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Second reading

1 Cor 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel

Mt 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. ‘You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

Reflection: Today’s First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the ‘Law’ is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus



repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today’s gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

– Greg Sunter

We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr Pat Mullins

23rd February

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers:

Juanita

Acolyte:

Arvin

Servers:

Gab, Ava, Aiden

Readers:

Aileen Sebastian(1), Luanshya Naidoo (2), Geraldine Santos (Int)

Eucharistic Min:

Gari DeGuzman

Hospitality:

Vol Req’d

Children’s Liturgy

Annette

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

*Volunteers – Mamre Creche CatholicCare
More details parracatholic.org/employment

*Speech Pathologist - Catholic Education
Office Northern Territory, Berrimah –

Applications close 4pm Sunday 16

February More details at:

www.ceont.catholic.edu.au/employment/currentvacancies/

CatholicCare Family Spirit Information

Evening: 18 February

Can you picture yourself as a foster carer? Family Spirit is looking for compassionate people who can provide security and comfort to children in need. To find out more, join us for an information night on Tuesday 18 February, 6pm to 8:30pm at Marist 180, 36 First Avenue, Blacktown. A light meal will be served. RSVP 13 18 19 or email connect@familyspirit.org

Ash Wednesday Project Compassion

Diocese Launch: 26 February

Please join us for the launch of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion in the Diocese on Ash Wednesday, 26 February, at St Patrick's Cathedral for Mass at 7.30pm, with the launch to follow. RSVP 19 February 8838 3461 marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org

Women's Lenten Retreat: 28 February – 1 March

Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa, is inviting women to attend a Lenten Retreat from 28 February at 6pm to 1 March at 4pm. If you are looking for some quiet time to prepare for Easter then this weekend is for you! RSVP 4773 8338 or info@schoenstatt.org.au.

Institute for Mission Themes of Faith: Starting March 2

The Themes of Faith program invites participants to share conversation and reflection in small groups. Sessions, arranged in two blocks of 5 Monday

evenings, start on 2 March. To register, visit <https://www.ifm.org.au/tof> and for more information, contact Donnie or Fr Paul on (02) 9296 6369 or donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au or paul.roberts@ifm.org.au

Shaping the Future of the Catholic Church Symposium: 4 March

The Implementation Advisory Group (established by ACBC and Catholic Religious Australia) are hosting a symposium on 'Shaping the Future of the Catholic Church' with three international experts on Wednesday 4 March from 1pm to 5pm. The experts will address numerous topics including the Ecclesiology of Vatican II; Theology and the Sexual Abuse Crisis; and Participative Engagement and Structures in a Missionary and Synodal Church. RSVP, tickets and event details can be found at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=584298&>.

Reflective Ministry Program: 10 Mar

If you are serving in any ministry or hoping to get involved - this program will nurture your personal relationship with God and further equip your purpose and serving! Knowledge from the focus topics is given by experienced presenters who facilitate the participants' further discussion and application to their ministry contexts. For more information contact Sr Grace on 9296 6369 or email: grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au

St Luke's Local News

Sacramental Program for 2020

This year St Luke's Catholic Faith Community, supported by St Luke's Catholic College, will again offer a Sacramental Program for children. We will offer First Reconciliation (sometimes referred to as Confession) for children who have been Baptised and are 8 years of age or older. We will also offer First Holy Communion to children who are Baptised, have made their First Reconciliation and are 9 years of age or older. (It is a requirement of the Diocese of Parramatta that children celebrate their First Holy Communion 12 months after receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation). This year's schedule is:

First Holy Communion

Preparation sessions: Wednesdays May 13, May 20, May 27 and June 10
Sacrament received on Corpus Christ – Sunday June 14 at 10am Mass.

First Reconciliation

Preparation sessions: Wednesdays July 15, 22, 29 and August 5.
Sacrament received on Wednesday, August 12 from 6 – 8pm.

Confirmation – no class this year. It will be offered again in 2021.

All preparation sessions will take place at St Luke's Catholic College at 6pm. As in all Parishes, the Sacramental program is facilitated by the parish for student and parent involvement, therefore parents will need to attend formation sessions with their children to be able to continue the conversations at home.

So, if you are interested in being involved, please fill in one of the 'Sacraments of Initiation' forms which are located on the Welcome Table.

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 (Saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

Our next 'Saints-in-Training' youth group gathering will be on Friday 28th February at 2 Springdale St from 7pm-8.45pm.

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

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SCHOOL ENQUIRIES: 9854 3100

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