

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

Mal 3:1-4

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner’s fire and the fuller’s alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Second reading

Heb 2:14-18

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God’s religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

Gospel

Lk 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was

a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.’

As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’ There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

Reflection: The gospel writer has merged two different ritual events into one in this passage: a ritual of purification following childbirth and an act of redeeming a first-born son through tribute to the Temple. The ritual of purification referred to would take place forty days after childbirth and today’s feast is the fortieth day from Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It was a ritual for the mother, not



the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The other ritual alluded to in the passage relates to the tradition from Exodus 13:2 and Numbers 18:15 that every first-born son belonged to the Lord and had to be ‘bought back’ or ‘redeemed’ by payment to the Temple. The original command of the first-born belonging to the Lord meant that the child was destined to serve in the Temple. However, the child could be ‘redeemed’ from this service by payment to the Temple. There is a great contrast between the forceful entry into the Temple by the Lord as foretold by Malachi in today’s first reading and the humble entry of the baby Jesus into the Temple. It reinforces the way in which throughout his ministry Jesus confounded many of the expectations about the Messiah. In today’s gospel passage, it is the devout Simeon and the prophetess, Anna, who declare the greatness and far-reaching influence of the child that has been brought to the Temple. This is a common feature of the gospel accounts. It is not Jesus himself who proclaims his greatness but those who have observed him and recognised the revelation of God’s presence amongst the people. It is a role that continues today. Those of us who believe and recognise the presence and influence of God in the world are challenged to proclaim it in both our actions and our words. - Greg Sunter

We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr Luis Herrera

9th February

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers:

Juanita

Acolyte:

Vol Req'd

Servers:

Gab, Ryan, Ava

Readers:

CFCA (1), CFCA (2), Luanshya Naidoo (I)

Eucharistic Min:

CFCA

Hospitality:

CFCA

Children's Liturgy

Sinta, Lavanya, Annette

Positions Vacant

*General Manager, Early Years Education & Care – Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited (CDPSL) – Applications close 4 February.

More details parracatholic.org/employment

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

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. Every Thursday in February and on 5 March from 7.30-9pm. Email parishoffice@olqp.org.au for registration and reading list.

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.

Pastoral Planning Alpha Team Training Workshop: 9 February

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

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.

LIFTED Live featuring Gen Bryant: 13 February

Youth, young adults and families are invited to a celebration of our local Church 'alive and brilliant' at CYP's LIFTED 2020 Launch on Thursday 13 February at WEST HQ, Rooty Hill from 7.30pm to 10pm. Live music, worship and plans unveiled for young people and acclaimed Catholic singer-songwriter from Melbourne Gen Bryant on-stage. Register your interest now at <https://parracatholic.org/liftedlive/>

The Carcoar Camino Walking Retreat: 14 – 16 February

The Shalom House of Prayer in Carcoar, NSW, is inviting participants to a two-day retreat following the Way of the Pilgrim, around the beautiful Carcoar Valley. The retreat starts on 14 February at 6pm and finishes Sunday 16 February at 3pm. Cost is \$200. For bookings, call (02) 6367 3058, shalomcarcoar@gmail.com or visit www.shalomcarcoar.com/events

Institute for Mission Themes of Faith: Starting March 2

The Themes of Faith program invites participants to share conversation and reflection in small groups. Each group is accompanied by a mentor with a focus on different key life/faith theme each time. 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

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

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 14th February at 2 Springdale St from 7pm-8.45pm.

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.

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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