

**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 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, ‘I am here. ‘If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

*A light rises in the darkness for the upright.*

**Second reading**

1 Cor 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great ‘fear and trembling’ and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

**Gospel**

Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.’

**Reflection:** Doctors and dietitians would have some difficulty with the first part of today’s Gospel. Jesus does not seem to know that salt is bad for hypertension and cholesterol! Just as health professionals are encouraging us to be careful in using salt, Jesus is telling us to keep it up. Salt in Jesus’ day, and for centuries before and after, was the primary preserving agent for food. That day-to-day usage gives us a clue as to the challenge being laid before us.

We are told that if salt has lost its taste it’s good for nothing. So the challenge is to keep it fresh so it can keep doing its job. Jesus suggests that, in the same way, we have to be on guard to make sure that our faith remains fresh so it’s able to do its job as well.

In the Beatitudes in Matthew’s Gospel Jesus tells us that a hollow attachment to the letter of the law, unbridled anger, an inability to forgive, being unfaithful in marriage, seeking revenge on our enemies, not being true to our word and being enslaved by money are all examples of bad faith. Think for a moment of people you know who are trapped by any of these vicious forces. It’s sad to see the energy it takes them to remain angry, greedy, legalistic, fraudulent and unforgiving. More positively Jesus tells us in these chapters that prayer, being generous to the poor, being discerning about whom we spend time with and what we see and hear, and going without things we often consider essential are helpful to living a faith-filled life. Think for a moment of people you know who live lives like this. Their detachment, sense of generosity and ease with others stands out in our stress-ridden world. My professor of liturgy used to say ‘Good liturgy enlivens faith and bad liturgy deadens it.’ This is the same message Jesus gives us today about faith in general. It’s



crazy for us to keep spending time with people and doing things that deaden our faith. We know the impact of these people or activities by the bad taste they leave in our mouths. After an encounter with them or it we usually tell ourselves that we must not go back for more, but the bad spirit seduces us into repeating the entire episode with frightening frequency. St Ignatius Loyola tells us that in these situations we have to deal with the bad spirit quickly and consistently and learn a new pattern of behaviour that will lead us away from darkness into the light. The job of faith is to enable us to live out and build Christ’s reign of justice and love in this world as a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven. May this Eucharist enable us to seek out the people and places that will see the saltiness of our faith remain fresh and interesting so that we will have every chance of preserving our faith in the dryer times, and of our faith in Jesus preserving us in the face of the trials and tests that come our way. - Richard Leonard SJ

16<sup>th</sup> February

**MINISTRY ROSTER**

Welcomers:

Vol Req’d

Acolyte:

Arvin

Servers:

Andrei, Ryan, Rohit

Readers:

Lavanya (1), Meli (2), Geraldine Santos

Eucharistic Min:

Ana

Hospitality:

International Food Day

Children’s Liturgy

Sinta, Cristina, Sindhu

**We welcome this week as our**

**Celebrant: Fr Florito Apalias**

**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](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

**CANCELLED - World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February**

Due to the coronavirus, the World Day of the Sick Mass scheduled for 11 February has been cancelled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**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/>

**Plenary Council 2020 Diocesan Session: 13 February**

You are invited to attend a Plenary Council 2020 Listening and Discernment session on 13 February from 6.30pm to 9pm at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown. At this session, you will have the opportunity to select and explore one of the six Themes for Discernment. A light supper will be provided. To RSVP, please contact [tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org](mailto:tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org).

**Christian Meditation: 16 February**

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia on Sunday 16 February from 10.30am to 3pm, with registration from 10am. Contact Br Terry on 0438 282 318 for possible accommodation in monastery guest house. For other enquiries, please

contact either Ann Bergman on [anniebergman@hotmail.com](mailto:anniebergman@hotmail.com) or Ann Lomas on [atlomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atlomas@bigpond.com) or 9653 2637.

**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, please 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. To secure you place call 13 18 19 or email [connect@familyspirit.org](mailto: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. Mass will be held at 7.30pm, with the launch to follow. International Speaker, Florida Senis Rafer will be joining us. Hear her story and ask her questions about the life-changing program she works on in the Philippines. RSVP 19 February on 8838 3461 [marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org](mailto:marisa.vanderhout@parracatholic.org)

**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](mailto:donnie.velasco@ifm.org.au) or [paul.roberts@ifm.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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**



Email: [saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

Our next 'Saints-in-Training' youth group gathering will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2 Springdale St from 7pm-8.45pm.

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! A rehearsal for musicians will be held after Mass today.

**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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**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

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