

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 32:15-18

Once more there will be poured on us the spirit from above; then shall the wilderness be fertile land and fertile land become forest. In the wilderness justice will come to live and integrity in the fertile land; integrity will bring peace, justice give lasting security. My people will live in a peaceful home, in safe houses, in quiet dwellings.

Second reading

1 Cor 12:4-11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

Gospel

Mt 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for

what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the

cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

Reflection: South Land of the Holy Spirit

The Beatitudes we just heard are at the beginning of the ‘Sermon on the Mount’.

This sermon provides a picture of a society where the usual expectations of how people relate to each other are overturned. Our Lord wants to create a new society where the old rules of engagement are superseded, especially in relation to enmity and violence. In fact, in the Sermon on the Mount all forms of resolving disputes, starting with families (spouses, brothers) are turned upside down.

And we are a ‘Land Down Under’.

Australia is a place to which people have been attracted over the millennia to forge a new future. First, the original inhabitants coming down through Asia, and then the settlers, migrants and refugees of the last 220 years. (Of course, the convicts were a less voluntary part of the movement of peoples!)

Most were attracted by a vision of a different future, a future where human beings could relate to each other differently to the old order in Europe, and more recently in the Middle East or Africa or Asia or Central or South America.

People were and are prepared to take the risk of being dis-located, of re-locating because of that vision of a different future, particularly a future not determined by the violence of feud and warfare which had characterised their homelands for generations, centuries, and even millennia. They come because they aspire to be someone different, to do something different, in ways not predetermined by centuries of custom and tradition in their home society.

Is this movement of people to Australia a ‘chance event’? Is it just another phase of world history? No.



I am confident that ‘Australia’ is a work of the Holy Spirit, no chance event in world history but a gathering of peoples for a Divine purpose.

One of the most distinctive works of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the breaking down of ethnic, tribal and language barriers between people. That is why Christianity spread like wild fire across the Roman Empire.

Australia is a place where that Pentecostal impulse is felt very strongly. People from every nation, tribe, ethnic, and religious group on the face of the earth have relocated here and are creating a new sort of society.

Have we responded to the Holy Spirit perfectly? No. Our treatment of the earliest inhabitants of this land was shameful, and is not yet fully remedied as the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires.

Our treatment of those genuinely fleeing persecution in their homelands falls short of what the Lord of the Sermon on the Mount desires.

But on the whole, we are creating a version of the Kingdom of God under the Southern Cross of which we can be proud.

So, Australians All, let us rejoice –

For our land abounding in nature’s gifts of beauty rich and rare,

For our freedom to share life in our

‘Common-Wealth’,

For the divine Spirit of Pentecost attracting us to follow Jesus in this

Australia del Espiritu Santo, South Land of the Holy Spirit.

- Fr Michael Tate

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

2nd February

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers:

Meli

Acolyte:

Arvin

Servers:

Gab, Ryan, Andrei

Readers:

Meli (1), Luanshya Naidoo (2), Vol Req'd

Eucharistic Min:

Varuni

Hospitality:

Vol Req'd

Children's Liturgy

Sindhu, Diana, Annette

Positions Vacant

*CatholicCare Mamre Creche volunteers

*Office Manager – Tribunal of the Catholic

Church (NSW and ACT), Diocese of

Parramatta – Applications close 3 February

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

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

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.

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.

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

Devotions to Honour Our Lady of Lourdes: 9 Feb

Mass and Blessing of the Sick will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, on Sunday 9 February 2020, entrance via St. James Avenue, Earlwood, commencing with recitation of the Rosary at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass and the Blessing of the Sick at 3:00 p.m. The Principal celebrant will be The Reverend Fr Brian Lucas.

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.

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

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

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