

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

Ex 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt?’ they said. ‘Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?’ Moses appealed to the Lord. ‘How am I to deal with this people?’ he said. ‘A little more and they will stone me!’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.’ This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, ‘Is the Lord with us, or not?’

Second reading

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God’s glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel

Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’ His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?’ – Jews, in fact, do

not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: ‘If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.’ ‘You have no bucket, sir,’ she answered ‘and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?’ Jesus replied: ‘Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.’ ‘Sir,’ said the woman, ‘give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’ Jesus said: ‘Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.’ ‘I who am speaking to you,’ said Jesus ‘I am he.’ Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman’s testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, ‘Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.’

Reflection: Our Sacred Site
The Jewish people worshipped at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans to the north worshipped on Mount Gerizem. But Jesus says to the woman of Samaria: ‘Believe me, woman, the hour is coming



when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem . . . true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.’ We do this by acknowledging Jesus Christ as *our* sacred site. Jesus is where God is to be found. In his earthly ministry this was around places like the well in Samaria. As Risen Lord, he is to be found in those in dire need, and in the Heavenly Bread. In both cases we need to incline the body as an act of worship: in the case of the needy, by doing something practical; in the case of the Heavenly Bread, by genuflecting, bowing, before the Blessed Sacrament. We could pause for a moment to reorientate ourselves to the Sacred Site who is the Risen Christ, acknowledging him as indeed the ‘Saviour of the World’.

- Fr Michael Tate

We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr Greg Jacobs

<p>22nd March MINISTRY ROSTER <u>Welcomers:</u> Juanita <u>Acolyte:</u> James <u>Servers:</u> Gab, Ava, Denver <u>Readers:</u> Aileen Sebastian (1), Neng Pasiona (2), Corrie Merdigia (Int) <u>Eucharistic Min:</u> Maree Raymundo <u>Hospitality:</u> Vol Req’d <u>Children’s Liturgy</u> Sinta, Annette</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

*Volunteers – Mamre Creche CatholicCare

*Disability Support Workers (Casual)

CatholicCare

More details parracatholic.org/employment

Lalor Park Parish 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.

Natural Fertility Services

Natural Fertility Services Parramatta offers couples a NATURAL option to plan their families. Natural Family Planning is for couples wanting to achieve & avoid pregnancy. It is suitable for couples at all stages of life who are looking for an effective, natural option of contraception. For more info or to book an appointment, contact Catherine on 0400 427 605, catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or visit www.parralmf.org.au.

Sisters of the Holy Family Bible Sharing: 19 March

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth are inviting youth, 18 – 35, to join them for Bible sharing on Thurs 19 March, 7pm at Our Lady, Queen of Poland Convent, 116-132 Quakers Road, Marayong. RSVP Sr Paula on 0449 656 406 vocationscsfn@gmail.com.

Gospel of Matthew: 20 March

Each year CCD offers a series of presentations on the Gospel of the Year as part of Level 3 training of catechists. Dr Laurie Woods will present on the Gospel of Matthew – March 20th & 27th and April 3.

These sessions will be held from 10am to 2pm at the Institute for Mission, Marion Street Blacktown (down stairs). All parishioners are invited to attend one or more of Dr Laurie Wood's presentations. There is no cost but please contact Maree Collis on 8838 3486 to register.

Catholic Youth Parramatta Safeguarding Series #1: 24 March

Catholic Youth Parramatta presents the first in a series of three safeguarding events in 2020, "Helping Youth Develop Safe & Healthy Relationships," facilitated by Cathy McClellan. The session will be held on Tuesday 24 March in the Greenway Room, Fiddler Hotel, Rouse Hill from 6.30pm to 9pm, with a light dinner provided. Register at <https://parracatholic.org/cyp-keeping-our-young-people-safe/>

Volunteers needed for new Life, Marriage and Family Office program: 21 April

The Life Marriage & Family Office is looking for married couples to volunteer to undertake a free training course for a new program to be launched in the Diocese in late 2020. An information meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 April at the Diocesan Ministry Centre, Blacktown from 7pm. RSVP Karin Abrams on (02) 8838 3460 or email lmf@parracatholic.org

St Luke's Local News

Fridays during Lent

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday night during Lent at the St Luke's office 2 Springdale St, starting at 7pm. Straight after that will be a Lenten Retreat 'No Greater Love' from 7.30-8.30pm, consisting of a video, reflection and discussion. All are welcome – come for one, or come for both!

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)

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.

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.

'Sacraments of Initiation' registration forms are located on the Welcome Table.

Youth Corner (Saintlukesyg@gmail.com)



Our next 'Saints-in-Training' youth group gathering will be on Friday 27th March in 'The Hub' at St Luke's Catholic College 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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