

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

Ez 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

*With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.*

Second reading

Rom 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel

Jn 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted

to stone you; are you going back again?'

Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus



said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Reflection:

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in Year A feature significant passages from the gospel of John. The first of the three readings was the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus described himself as Living Water. The second was the healing of the blind man and Jesus declaring himself to be the Light of the World. In today's passage about the death and raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares,

'I am the resurrection and the life.' Living Water; Light of the World; and the Resurrection and the Life – three important images of Jesus that all emerge from the gospel of John. Each of the events relate to Jesus' response to some physical need: thirst; blindness; and death. However, in each case, Jesus not only responds to the physical need but also reveals a truth about himself that leads people to belief. The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.

- Greg Sunter

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.

RESOURCES TO USE FOR PRAYER AT THIS TIME

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have compiled a list of online resources from many different areas.
<https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

The Diocese of Parramatta Website has created a dedicated COVID19 page with Diocesan updates and a compilation of resources, links and articles to assist us during this time.
<https://parracatholic.org/covid19/>

You can also keep up to date with Diocesan Initiatives and messages via their Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic/>

The Institute for Mission in the Diocese of Parramatta has an online library with a wide selection of resources to select from. This time of physical isolation may be a time to learn and grow in our faith. To subscribe visit
<https://www.ifm.org.au/online/reading>
You can follow the Institute for Mission on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/ifmconnect/> or via the Faith Feed Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/thefaithfeedparramatta/>

A great website with heaps of indoor games ideas for kids:
<https://whatmomslove.com/kids/active-indoor-games-activities-for-kids-to-burn-energy/>

From the Office for Worship, Diocese of Parramatta
Liturgy Help have given free access for the next few months to people in our diocese. You will find resources to assist members of your household to pray at this time.
www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta are, from 20 March 2020, dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248 §2 and Catechism 2181.)

That is: it is not a sin to miss Sunday Mass at this time.

St Luke's Local News

Join us each evening of Holy Week (Monday, April 6 – Thursday, April 9) at 7pm for prayer/liturgy and on Good Friday at 10am for Stations of the Cross and at 3pm for a Commemoration of the Lord's Passion.) Further details next week.

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena. Suspended until further notice.

Our Sacramental Program for 2020 will be postponed.
Further details as soon as we are able to plan for future activities.

Youth Corner (Saintlukesyg@gmail.com)



See our 'Saints in Training' update on the St Luke's Facebook page and on Instagram.

MESSAGE FROM DEACON TONY

We clearly need to heed the advice and directions of our governments and medical authorities at this time in order to ensure the best possible outcome for our community in terms of physical health. However, we also need to maintain our Spiritual health at times like this. Despite the need for physical **spacing**, let's not forget that social **connection** is now more than ever vital for us. We will continue to update our Facebook page as things develop. If you have not already done so, please go to this page (www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark) and 'like' us so that you get our updates as soon as they occur. After this Sunday's trial of our virtual Sunday gathering our leaders will meet this week plan what comes next. So, please keep 10am on Sundays free in your calendar so that we can continue to come together virtually in prayer. Annette and I offer you every blessing for health of mind, body and soul at this time.

- Deacon Tony Hoban
Pastoral Director

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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