

**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**

Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.*

**Second reading**

1 Pt 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God’s power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

**Gospel**

Jn 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you,’ and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. ‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’ After saying this he breathed on them and said: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’ Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord’, he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him: ‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**Reflection**

Because the focus of this week’s gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, ‘for fear of the Jews’. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one



they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities – thumbing his nose at the rules. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They’d gone from riding the crest of a wave to being utterly dumped! They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They’d already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, ‘Peace be with you’. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as ‘Doubting Thomas’ because he wasn’t prepared to take someone else’s word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, ‘My Lord and my God!’ This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

- Greg Sunter

**We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr Dado**

## 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.

## ATTENTION READERS

As we continue to gather for Liturgies online, and therefore don't have our usual arrangements for rosters to be completed in the foyer after Mass, we have created an online form.

Therefore, we are asking readers to click on the link below and advise us of your availability to be part of our reading ministry in coming weeks:

<https://forms.gle/595584bb2GJsZ7zc6>

## JOIN US FOR LITURGY/MASS AT 10AM EVERY SUNDAY DURING THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/93918900500>

## EASTER PRAYERS FROM ST LUKE'S

Here are the prayers our community members raised to God on Easter Sunday:

- Help and guide our families and protect and bless us
- May the many blessings of Easter fill us all for all of our lives
- For all those alone at Easter
- We pray for God's grace for people to endure this pandemic and be triumphant in the end just like His resurrection.
- Praying for the soul of my father, Jose Olympia who passed away in the Philippines on Good Friday...
- Let us pray for all the covid 19 patients that they may have a speedy recovery
- Protect and guide us all always
- Pray for the soul of Edward & Letty
- We pray that we all may receive the hope of the Risen Lord; that we may have comfort that Our God has risen
- God, look after the lonely and vulnerable
- Praying for all the families affected by covid 19, along with the front liners.
- We pray for healing of all those infected with the virus all over the world
- Wishing everyone a happy Easter; be safe at home. Special prayers to the people who are sick.
- Pray for all those who are fighting corona

virus and all those struggling with the emotional and mental impact of social distancing

- Pray for Lyn and Adrian
- Give strength to our health workers
- Prayers for healing of Sheen's leg.
- Celebrating the Resurrection. Praying humbly for everyday miracles for all in need of your assistance. Amen.
- May God's surprise come to us soon
- A prayer for the children of the St Luke's Faith Community and St Luke's Learning Community. May they continue to feel loved during this time of isolation.
- We pray for the school children of St Luke's
- Lord we pray for all those who have died due to COVID 19 will rise with Lord for eternal life
- May we bring hope to each other in our own ways
- Praying for those who have lost their jobs, that they won't lose hope.
- Pray for my father in law who has terminal cancer, and all with terminal illnesses.
- Praying for all of our Gracie Barra Blacktown City students, their family and friends...
- Lord please help us during covid-19
- Pray for all people's health and safety
- For those who lost their jobs, that God may provide their daily needs
- Pray the Holy Spirit touch the heart of each and every one of us as we live our way around the virus
- We pray for all those who are helping us with the transition to the digital world in our prayer and work life.
- Pray for life to go back to normal
- We pray for everyone to be safe, strong and healthy
- Praying for everyone's spiritual and mental health during this pandemic
- Praying for the whole world...heal our land GOD!!!
- Please protect us all from covid-19
- We pray to not forget the climate crisis we are currently in, for the strength of the front liners and for everybody's health.
- We pray for good health for our family here and overseas and complete healing of those infected by Corona virus.
- Praying for those people who are suffering depression because they lost their job, infected by the virus and mentally impacted by social distancing. Lord hear our prayers.
- We pray for the people who are affected with the virus, and to come back to good health as well as our country to come back to normalcy.
- Praying for those who do not believe, that they will turn to God.
- Peace be with you all.

## 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/>

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/onlineReading>

From the Office for Worship, Diocese of Parramatta

You will find resources to assist members of your household to pray at this time.

[www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray](http://www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/parra/pray)

**Youth Corner** ([Saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:Saintlukesyg@gmail.com))

Next Saints in Training gathering will be via Zoom on Friday evening 24<sup>th</sup> April. Please email [saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com) for details.

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

## MESSAGE FROM DEACON TONY

We will continue to update our Facebook page as things develop.

([www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark](http://www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark))

'Like' us now so that you get our updates.

## 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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**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

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