

OUR VISION:

"WE ARE CONTINUALLY ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO ST LUKE'S AND EVERYONE WHO ENGAGES AS A MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY IS TRANSFORMED IN EVERY AREA OF THEIR LIFE BY HAVING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS."

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

*Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.*

Second reading

1 Pt 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who

called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel

Jn 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Reflection:

The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event.

Today's gospel passage comes from the very long Last Supper discourse in the gospel of John. When Jesus speaks about 'going away' for a time it could be interpreted as the period of his death and rising that are about to occur in the chronology of the story. However, the gospel of John is written a very long time



after the death of Jesus; perhaps as much as 70 years after Jesus. Given this period of time between the events and the writing, we know that the writer was also referring to this longer time of Jesus 'going away'. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return.

The theme of being present and being absent is very strong in this gospel. The discussion about Jesus and the Father being one is part of this theme. Jesus is God present in the world. God has come to dwell among the people. When Jesus speaks of preparing rooms in the Father's house, it is a reference to preparing the disciples to 'live' in God; to dwell in God just as God has dwelt in the people.

- Greg Sunter

**We welcome this week as our
Celebrant: Fr Florito Apalias**

**JOIN US FOR MASS AT
10AM EVERY SUNDAY
DURING THE COVID-19
RESTRICTIONS**

via Zoom:

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

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>

MESSAGE FROM DEACON TONY

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

www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark

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

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.

Weekly Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/624180454>

Saturday Sessions

Create community online as we gather to share and grow faith, every Saturday from 11am - 12pm with 'Saturday Sessions'. Listen to the pre-recorded presentation about a topic of faith before Saturday 11am and then join an online group discussion via Zoom between 11am - 12pm.

Registration essential.

Register at

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsdOypqDgrHN2vSOOsJinf7UG30zsSFCM>

For further information contact Lisa at lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

THE PRAYERS OFFERED BY OUR COMMUNITY LAST WEEK.

We Pray:

For the world to believe and trust in God.

That our leaders will make decisions that benefit us all.

For everyone!!

For the repose of the soul of Mrs Agnes Yasay.

For Carmel's pregnancy, that she may carry to full term.

For those who are struggling with the isolation required at the moment.

For the intentions of Pope Francis.

For our St Luke's community; that we may continue to journey together and grow in faith.

For those families struggling financially and emotionally.

For the safety of all.

In thanksgiving for the birthday of Genesis Raymundo.

In thanks for Your Love and for looking after our family's health and safety.

For our loved ones back home.

That we may grow as a community, following Jesus, our shepherd.

For the health of our grandmother and everyone who is looking after her.

For those who are affected by the pandemic.

For all the suffering, especially those living in third world countries or in violent places of the world.

For the intentions of the Pope and Bishop Vincent.

For my Father's studies; that he may complete it well.

For all Gracie Barra Blacktown City students, family and friends in this time, for the soul of Jose Olympia, for the whole world...heal our land oh GOD!!!

For all young people around the world

For the safety of our family in the Philippines.

For all children struggling without connection to friends and school, and for the clergy who continue to minister to us. That during this time of trial and challenge that we as a community will continue to grow stronger in faith.

For the good health of Lolo Bobby.

For our family and friends.

For my Nan, Lyn, Adrian, Ruthie and all the sick.

For the people who are isolated; that they may be filled with joy and happiness during these dark times.

For my sister's sickness and her studies.

For all sick ppl, especially our loved ones.

That our leaders will be guided by God as restrictions are eased.

For the pandemic to end soon and the world to not lose any more to this virus.

For the aged and all those in nursing homes.

For protection from covid-19.

For good health, peace of mind and heart of everyone.

For the frontline workers who are helping to keep our community safe.

For those struggling without work and for other reasons, that they will not feel

ashamed to reach out for help from others in the community.

For the people in nursing homes and aged care facilities that they may be protected from coronavirus.

For our families both here in Australia and overseas.

For those who have lost their jobs and going through difficult times.

That you provide for your people through this desert.

For the soul of Clarence Brown; may he rest in peace.

For the repose of the souls who died in Anglicare Newmarch House and for the comfort of their families.

Youth Corner (Saintlukesyg@gmail.com)



The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be via zoom on Friday 22nd May at 7pm. For details please email saintlukesyg@gmail.com

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



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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