

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 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

Second reading

Eph 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the

strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel

Mt 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Reflection:

When I was a boy, Sir Edmund Hillary came to speak at my school. I can remember the fuss surrounding the visit of the first person to scale Mt Everest. And though there is now a school of thought that holds that he was beaten to the summit by Tenzing Norgay, his Tibetan colleague, there was an aura around this New Zealander who had been to the top of the world. Some of my usually dour teachers were in awe of Sir Edmund. There was more than a little hero worship going on that day. Rather surprisingly in his address Sir Edmund did not say very much about his adventure to the peak. He was much more interested in what we do to each other on the plains than what he did on the mountain top. He spoke about justice, peace and the dignity of humanity. I can vividly remember him sending us out at the end of his speech to create a better world for all people everywhere. When questions came, there were several about whether he felt closer to God at the top of Mt Everest, and although he said he did, he mentioned there were life and death moments on the



way up and down, where God's presence and companionship were much more real to him.

Hillary's visit to my school is not far from what happened to the disciples in today's Gospel. Matthew tells us that the eleven men who worshipped Jesus were commissioned by him to go out to the world and they were promised that he would stay with them until the end of time. Worship is a word Catholics don't use all that often. While other denominations describe their liturgy as 'worship', we tend to use it only in a more secular way like in 'hero worship' or 'not an altar at which I worship'. The concept behind this word, however, is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed toward our Creator, Saviour and Sustainer. Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

So, today then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

- Richard Leonard SJ

Dear St Luke's Catholic Faith Community members:

Despite some easing in social distancing restrictions, the reality is that we will need to continue with our Zoom Sunday Mass for the foreseeable future (via Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93918900500>).

However, the good news is that we are able to now have 10 people (adults and children) attend Sunday Mass at St Luke's Catholic College, in addition to ministers (the priest, deacon, readers, acolyte, musicians/choir members).

So, we are asking people who wish to attend one of our upcoming Masses to nominate their family by using this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6snPkfIX-9O5tlvL-RFan4fakg_qd5jS-u63kbK_1n493YA/viewform

If you have any trouble in using the Google form please advise us by email at: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org.

We will draw names randomly and advise who can attend each week, starting from Sunday, May 24.

The Saturday **Communion Services** and **Eucharistic Adoration** times will be every hour on the hour from 10am – 2pm. At all times, we will be limited to 10 people in attendance (in addition to any ministers) and social distancing requirements must be observed. No booking is needed for these services; however, we will only admit 10 people at a time.

It may be possible to arrange for small groups to attend a Communion Service at other times by appointment. Please email marsdenpark@parracatholic.org if you wish to request this.

Please note, however, that the dispensation from attending Mass for all Catholics in our Diocese remains in place. So, no one is obligated to attend Mass until further notice.

If you have cold or flu symptoms or an allergy, please stay at home.

Baptisms are now able to take place, with attendees limited to 10 people (in addition to ministers). Please book for a Baptism by emailing marsdenpark@parracatholic.org or calling 8840 8521.

We give thanks for these small changes and pray for the day when we are all able to gather together again.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well.

God's blessings on you and your family.

Deacon Tony Hoban
Pastoral Director
St Luke's Catholic Faith Community.

**We welcome this week as our
Celebrant: Fr Peter Williams**

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 don't have our usual arrangements for rosters 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://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vHPBdpU7ewsDI5pCKPmWJu4j9ttBqwFTj30zFNkxiU/edit>

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.

BAPTISMS

As from 15 May 2020 the Sacrament of Initiation (Baptism) may be celebrated in the Diocese of Parramatta, with a limit of 10 attendees. Please contact Deacon Tony at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org for further information.

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 the 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/tJlsdOypqDgrHN2vSOOsoJinf7UG30zsSFCM>

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

Explore Alpha Online

You are invited to come together in an online community to explore life, faith and meaning. Alpha offers a video each week followed by small group discussion to explore the Christian faith in a friendly and comfortable environment. It begins on Monday, 1st June 2020 at 7.30pm.

To register for Alpha visit

<https://www.parracatholic.org/alphaonline/>

or call Lisa on 0448 652 720.

Alpha Online is being hosted by the Pastoral Planning Office of the Diocese of Parramatta.

Youth Corner (Saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be via zoom on Friday 5th June 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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