

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

2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, ‘Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.’

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. ‘What can be done for her?’ he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, ‘Well, she has no son and her husband is old.’ Elisha said, ‘Call her.’ The servant called her and she stood at the door. ‘This time next year,’ Elisha said ‘you will hold a son in your arms.’

Second reading

Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him anymore. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel

Mt 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. ‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. ‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man’s reward. ‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’

Reflection:

An ancient woman has lessons for us today. How can the story of a woman who lived almost 2900 years ago be relevant to us today? The story of a childless woman in 2 Kings (4:8-11. 14-16), our first reading in today’s Mass, is one that I must have previously heard but I cannot remember anything about it. So, I was interested to look a little more closely. The woman lived in a town called Shunem, about 17km south of Nazareth. She was not aware of who the Prophet Elisha was but sensed he was a holy man. She provided him with food whenever he passed by their house. This woman was not poor. In fact, we are told that she was ‘a woman of rank’. She and her husband had the means to construct a guest room above their house for Elisha and his servant. Elisha rewards her generosity by telling her that she will conceive a child. She had trouble processing this promise as her husband was quite old. Yet, sure enough, the next year she gives birth to a son, as promised. Nice happy story, isn’t it? Yet, what the passage from today’s Mass leaves out is the next section in the scripture text, where the son grows up but then becomes sick and dies. The woman asks Elisha to come and raise the boy to life again - and he does.

God reveals through the actions of the Prophet Elisha that he can do amazing things - he can cause couples who cannot conceive to bear children, he can raise the dead. He does not always show a reward in the way we expect, but we can be sure that God will give a reward. There is a lesson also from the woman – that actions of generosity to God and God’s representatives will be rewarded. Jesus takes up this theme in the Gospel today (Matthew 10:37-42) when he says those who receive a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. The woman from Shunem is one wonderful example of God giving a reward for generosity to a holy person. Why is this so? Because Jesus sees people who act on God’s behalf as true representatives of God himself. When we respect a holy person, like a prophet, we respect God. When we give to such a person we give to God. So, who are the prophets today? Perhaps they are the “little ones” who Jesus also refers to in today’s Gospel. Those neglected by others. The forgotten people. People who are sick, or abused, or rejected. People who are in exile from their homeland. People whose rights have been trampled. Turn to these people with loving care and you will find Jesus. And like the woman of Shunem 2900 years ago, God will reward you – in the way that God sees fit.

- Deacon Tony Hoban
Pastoral Director

IMPORTANT ST LUKE’S ANNOUNCEMENT

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions from July 1, we will be able to have 100 people attend each Mass. As announced at Mass last Sunday, we will be having two Masses each weekend from the start of July:

- A Vigil Mass at 5.30 pm each Saturday
- Our usual Sunday morning 10 am Mass.

However, we need you to book in to attend each Mass, to ensure we comply with the State Government requirements. If you do not have a ticket for Mass for you and those attending with you, we may unfortunately not be able to allow you to enter, as there are substantial fines if we breach the rules. We have set up online ticketing for Masses in July. (continued over page)

Click on the links below for either the Saturday Vigil or Sunday morning Masses. Remember to enter the number of people who will be attending in your group. You can book in for more than one week. Click on the orange box 'Select a Date' to select each week that you want to attend.

If you have difficulty using this ticketing system, you are free to email us at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org. If you do so, please advise your full name, what Mass you want to attend each week (i.e. July 4 or 5, 11 or 12, 18 or 19, 25 or 26) and how many people will be attending in your group each week.

The 'ticket' booking links are here:

Saturday Vigil (5.30pm) Mass:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/110582713874>

Sunday morning (10am) Mass:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/110583072948>

We will still be offering Mass via Zoom each Sunday at 10am for those who are unable to physically attend Mass, which can be accessed by clicking on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/93918900500>

PLEASE NOTE 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.

We will continue to update our Facebook page as things develop. (www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark) 'Like' us now so that you get our updates.

God's blessings on you and your family.

- Deacon Tony Hoban
Pastoral Director

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

We welcome this week as our Celebrant: Fr John Hogan

Our Pastoral Council members

I am pleased to advise of the formation of our first St Luke's Pastoral Council. The Council members met for the first time yesterday.

As our community grows, we require a group to represent St Luke's and help guide our next steps. Collectively, the members of the Council have the responsibility to consult, inform and listen to the needs and aspirations of each member of the whole community, offering key advice and guidance to the pastoral leaders.

This group helps to empower, encourage and lead in discernment, as it shares with the leadership the responsibility for the development of the community of faith and the mission of Jesus Christ within Marsden Park.

The Pastoral Council members are:

Aleta dela Cruz *Charles Emerson*
Gari de Guzman *Julia Hoban*
James Irudayaraj *Arvin Joya*
Nars Lumba *Genesis Raymundo*
Marie Raymundo *Joe Son Kee*

I thank them all for their commitment and look forward to working with them to assist our still new faith community on the next stage of its journey.

The members of our Leadership Team, Kelly Bauer, Tessie James and Annette Hoban will be ex-officio members of the Council, along with myself.

- Deacon Tony Hoban
Pastoral Director

Positions Vacant:

*Human Resources Adviser

More details at:

parracatholic.org/employment

Weekly Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Initiation (Baptism) may be celebrated in the Diocese of Parramatta, with a limit of 50 attendees. Please contact Deacon Tony for further information at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Institute for Mission – Formation opportunity for adults

The Institute for Mission's Reflective Ministry Program (Word and Mission) is going ahead starting from 18 August. Part Two is being offered for free as a response to COVID-19 with limited spots available.

For details and registration, visit <https://www.ifm.org.au/reflective-ministry> or contact Sr Grace on grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au.

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.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsdOypqDgrHN2vSO0soJinf7UG30zsSFCM>

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

Catholic Youth Parramatta engaging young people in new ways

Catholic Youth Parramatta has established a dynamic schedule of networking opportunities, formation and resources to support ministry and engagement with young people of the Diocese in new ways. Check out CYP's Facebook and Instagram pages and <https://www.parracatholic.org/cyp/> to download and share the resources.

Youth Corner (Saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be via zoom on Friday 3rd July at 7pm. For details please email: saintlukesyg@gmail.com



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

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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