

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

Zec 9:9-10

The Lord says this:

‘Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!

See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished.

He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.’

Second reading

Rom 8:9.11-13

Your interests 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, 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.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel

Mt 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my

Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

Reflection:

Before I said my first Mass an old priest gave me two great pieces of advice. ‘You know when the congregation is filled with optimists. After a long series of announcements at the end of Mass and then you say, “and finally...” people take out their car keys!’ The second was, ‘Never underestimate the burdens people bring with them into the church. Often we have little idea of the difficulties and pain our parishioners will be carrying.’ I have no idea what you have brought with you to Mass today. I can only imagine the anxiety and burden some of you are carrying. Whatever it is, Jesus invites you to let go of it, if only for a while, and be at peace. Now all this ‘come and rest a while’ talk can be very pious and not sound all that in touch with reality. Today’s Gospel, however, came from the community of the Apostle Matthew and was written in Jerusalem about 45 years after Jesus’ death. We know that this community experienced intense suffering and heavy burdens. They had been expelled from the Synagogue and were being martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ. No wonder they held so strongly to the words, ‘Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.’ And they found consolation in Jesus’ example, ‘take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.’ Since the first century, however, Christianity has been guilty of trying to spiritually wallpaper over some tough realities rather than preaching that God is our companion in facing up to whatever our reality is and dealing with it. Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone.

God is our companion and guide and this parish Community, as with every Christian community, is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other’s burdens and rest with each other awhile. What we celebrate here each Sunday is that God will have the last word, a just, joyous, loving and peaceful word, in this world and when we enter our final rest. Jesus accompanies us so he can show us that the gift of peace and a release from our life’s burdens is often found in having the perspective for exercising the gift of right judgment. Making the best possible choices leads to the alleviation of our pain and difficulties. So, whatever burden you may have brought with you, may you know a moment’s rest, the companionship of fellow travellers and the gift of Christ’s peace.

- Richard Leonard SJ

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.

Click on the links below for either the Saturday Vigil or Sunday morning Masses. 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.
(continued over)

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.

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

Celebrants: Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil) and Fr Luis Herrera (Sunday 10am)

Our Pastoral Council members

I am pleased to advise of the formation of our first St Luke's Pastoral Council.

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/tJlSdOypqDgrHN2vSOOsoJinf7UG30zsSFCM>

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

Youth Corner (Saintlukesvg@gmail.com)

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

saintlukesvg@gmail.com



Palms Australia is currently seeking office volunteers

Palms Australia is a registered Catholic charity that has been working to reduce poverty through long-term, skilled volunteering for 59 years.

Here's a great opportunity to assist in the following part-time volunteer roles.

The Connector- help promote Palms placements and programs, **Events Support-** collate stories and images from Palms' history, **Donor Support-** work with our Fundraising Co-ordinator to organise support for overseas placements.

To find out more call Palms on 9560 5333.

Welcome Fr Andrew Hennes

We welcome Fr Andrew as our Celebrant for Saturday Vigil Masses. Fr Andrew is a Coptic Catholic priest, originally from Egypt. (The Coptic Catholic Church is a church in full communion with the Pope in Rome). He was ordained in 1998. He has been in Australia for two years and is based at St Mark's Coptic Catholic Church at Prospect.



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month
4.30pm

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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