

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

Is 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’

Second reading

Rom 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel

Mt 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, ‘Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the

birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!’ Then the disciples went up to him and asked, ‘Why do you talk to them in parables?’ ‘Because’ he replied ‘the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. ‘But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. ‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and

produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.’

Reflection:

The teaching of Jesus is grounded firmly in the Jewish world of the 1st Century. For most of his listeners, that world was an agricultural one and so the stories Jesus told were about the everyday realities of peoples’ lives. He told stories about vineyards, wheat fields, building houses, planting seeds and reaping harvests. The imagery he used was drawn from the lived experience of those he taught. Jesus used a style of storytelling that was popular at the time: parable. A parable is a story with a moral or a lesson. A parable usually involves an extended metaphor and, at its heart, is teaching the listener about how to live or how to behave. Another feature of parables is that they can be understood at different levels. At one level, there is the literal meaning of a parable – what it says is what it is about. In today’s gospel, the parable of the sower can be read or heard as a literal story about sowing seed and the lesson one might take from it is to be careful where you throw the seed when sowing. At another level, parables have a metaphoric meaning. In this instance, Jesus actually explains the symbolism of the parable to his disciples. There is a further, interpretive level of a parable where a modern reader asks, ‘What has that story got to say to me here and now?’ In his conversation with the disciples, Jesus makes clear that only some people are open to understanding the depth of the message contained within his parables. Some people will only ever hear the story and never hear the message. Mind you, he still has to explain the parable to the disciples! He has just chastised those who fail to understand and yet walks the disciples through the parable step by step!

- Greg Sunter

PLEASE NOTE: 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.

IMPORTANT ST LUKE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions from July 1, we are able to have 100 people at each Mass:

- Vigil 5.30 pm Saturday
- Sunday morning 10 am.

Bookings are required. We have set up online ticketing with Eventbrite.

eventbrite

The 'ticket' booking links are:

Saturday Vigil (5.30pm) Mass

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

Sunday morning (10am) Mass

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

zoom

Sunday 10am Mass via zoom:

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

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 Florito Apalias (Sunday 10am)

Our Pastoral Council Executive

At the second meeting of our Pastoral Council last weekend, the Executive of the Council were elected.

I am pleased to advise the following office-bearers:

Chair – Gari de Guzman.

Deputy Chair – Nars Lumba.

Secretary – Aleta Dela Cruz.

Please pray for these Executive members and all of the Pastoral Council members, that they discern how God is leading them to support this faith community to be all that God is calling us to be.

- Deacon Tony Hoban
Pastoral Director

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 the 4m2 rule applying. Please contact Deacon Tony for further information at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Preparation sessions for the Sacrament of Holy Communion will take place on Wednesday, July 22, July 29, August 5, August 12. The Sacrament will be celebrated on Sunday August 16 (time TBC). (Due to the constant updating of COVID restrictions, we will advise asap of any changes to this date.)

First Reconciliation preparation sessions will be: Wednesday, Sept 2, 9, and 16. Children will receive the Sacrament on Wednesday, September 23rd (6pm – 8pm).

All preparation sessions (both Sacraments) will be from 6 pm to 7 pm in the Hub at St Luke's Catholic College. Attendance is mandatory for all children and at least one parent/guardian.

All enquiries to:

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

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/tJIsdOypqDgrHN2vSOOsoJinf7UG30zsSFCM>

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

Palms Australia

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.

Youth Corner (Saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be via zoom on Friday 17 July at 7pm. For details please email:

saintlukesyg@gmail.com



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 - 5.10pm

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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