

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 61:1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second reading

1 Thes 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.



Gospel

Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Reflection: Witness to the Light

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb. We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives. We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

- Fr Michael Tate



PLEASE NOTE: The dispensation from attending Mass for all Catholics in our Diocese remains in place. If you have cold or flu symptoms or an allergy, please stay at home.

IMPORTANT ST LUKE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

"On consideration of NSW Health advice, the Diocese of Parramatta highly recommends all worshippers at Masses in the Diocese to wear a mask to, during, and from Mass and other Services.

We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe."

We welcome this week as our

Celebrants: Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Gregory Jacobs (10am)

BAPTISMS

For inquiries about the Sacrament of Initiation (Baptism) contact Deacon Tony at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Reconciliation will now be offered on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, **after** the 5.30pm Vigil Mass.

WANT TO GIVE TO ST LUKE'S WITHOUT TOUCHING ANY CURRENCY?

The details for giving electronically to our regular collections are:

1st Collection

(living costs of clergy in our Diocese):

BSB: 067 950

Account: 000 04265

Account Name: Diocese of Parramatta BOM (Board of Management)

Reference: 'Marsden Park' and your name (it's important to include this reference).

2nd Collection

(costs of running St Luke's Community)

BSB: 067 950

Account: 0004026

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park

Reference: Your name

OR:



Scan the QR Code using your phone camera and click the link

Choose '**MARSDEN PARK – St Luke's Catholic Faith Community**'

St Luke's Building fund

(for a future Church building)

BSB: 067 950

Account: 000 04307

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park

Reference: Your name

Please consider making these recurring payments (weekly).

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we are able to have more than 200 people at each Mass. Bookings are required. We have set up online ticketing with 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>



Sunday 10am Mass via zoom:

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



Weekly Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at

7.30pm via Zoom:

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

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

Rouse Hill Parish Christmas Novena Dawn Masses: From 16 December

Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill

will be celebrating a Novena of Dawn

Masses (also known as Simbang Gabi)

leading up to Christmas. Commencing on 16

December, they will be celebrated at

5.00am. Bookings are required

via <https://www.trybooking.com/BMWOD>.

For details, please contact the parish on

rousehill@parracatholic.org or 8883 4063.

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times

from parishes across Western Sydney and

the Blue Mountains are available now on

the Diocese of Parramatta website

(www.parracatholic.org), on Catholic

Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org) and on

our Diocesan social media channels. Merry

Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta!

Welcome to *The Well*

The Diocese of Parramatta proudly

announces its latest initiative – *The Well*. In

what can be described as 'Netflix for

Catholics', *The Well* is a new online

platform that provides free, 'on-demand'

inspiration for families, children, young

people and faith communities. Explore

fresh offerings every week on topical issues

that inform, entertain and challenge. Check

it out at www.thewell.org.au

Donate to Caritas' Asia Emergency Appeal

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are

with the people of the Philippines, Vietnam

and Cambodia, who have been devastated

by unprecedented flooding. Homes have

been destroyed and hundreds of thousands

of people are fleeing to evacuation centres,

where the risks of spreading COVID-19 are

high. With your help, Caritas can provide

vital support to those affected by this and

other disasters. Donate today at

www.caritas.org.au or call 1800 024 413.

Can we pray for you?

St Luke's has people who have volunteered

for prayer ministry to pray for you and

those you love. Simply go to our website

site: <https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>

and scroll down to the heading: 'Submit

your own prayer intention or prayer of

thanks'. We look forward to being able to

support you through the prayers of your

fellow faith community members.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

This Christmas let us unite in demonstrating

God's unconditional love and keep families

together. Your compassionate gifts and

prayers will help CatholicCare's Project

Elizabeth to support vulnerable families to

build strong, loving relationships. You can

help give people the emotional and

practical support they need to live their

lives in love and joy. Please give generously

to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at:

yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Youth Corner

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will

be held in the Hub at St Luke's College on

Friday 18 December at 7pm. This will be the

last for 2020! For details please email:

saintlukesyg@gmail.com

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month after

the Vigil Mass

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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SCHOOL ENQUIRIES: 9854 3100

www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au