

**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 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

*For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

**Second reading**

Rom 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel**

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**Reflection:**

We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

- Greg Sunter



**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:** Bishop Vincent Long (Vigil)  
Fr Luis Herrera (10am)

## BAPTISMS

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

**Reconciliation** will now be offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>

## 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](http://www.parracatholic.org)), on Catholic Outlook ([www.catholicoutlook.org](http://www.catholicoutlook.org)) and on our Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta!

## CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST LUKE'S

**We have three Christmas Masses.**

The ticket links are:

**Christmas Eve 7pm Mass:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../christmas-eve-7pm-mass...>

**Christmas Eve 11pm Mass:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../christmas-eve-11-pm...>

**Christmas Day 10am Mass:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../christmas-day-10-am...>

## Position Vacant:

Sacramental Coordinator (part-time) –

MQoF Parish, Blacktown

Applications close Monday 21 December

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

## 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>

## 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](http://www.caritas.org.au) or call 1800 024 413.

## 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. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at:

[yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

## RECONCILIATION

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Pastoral Director:**

Deacon Tony Hoban

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[www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark)

**Instagram:**

[stlukes\\_marsdenpark](https://www.instagram.com/stlukes_marsdenpark)

**Address:**

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

**Postal Address:**

PO Box 85, Plumpton NSW 2761

**SCHOOL ENQUIRIES:** 9854 3100

[www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au)