

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 40:1-5. 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is

being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Reflection: Preparing the Way

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent

by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

- 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: Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)
Fr Luis Herrera (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.

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.

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



Weekly Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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

Positions Vacant:

*Sacramental Coordinator

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes

Applications close: Thursday 10 December

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

*Head of Mission Integration

Caritas Australia

For more details, please visit

<https://www.caritas.org.au/about/jobs/position-s-vacant>

Plenary Council Reflection and Action

Session: 9 December

You are invited to attend the Reignite the Flame of Plenary Council Reflection & Action Session on Wednesday 9 December from 7pm to 8.30pm via ZOOM. Some of the Diocese's Plenary Council delegates will share on the 'Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform' theme. To register, visit https://dioceseofparramatta.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsce2uqj8sHtlE71B1MKXI_PgfNolbUS_e

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.

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.

Christmas Carols - mark your calendar!

We will be holding Christmas Carols via Zoom on Saturday, December 12 from 7pm to 8.30pm. It will be a joint effort between St Luke's Catholic College and our faith community. To join in, click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81031688055?pwd=VnlvSEdsZTZYZE5KK3dPOWRmSHNKQT09> Passcode: 190723

PREPARE WELL FOR CHRISTMAS

Join Deacon Tony and others in getting well prepared for Christmas. Join Parousia Media for daily video meditations and scriptural readings with world-class speakers on scripture and the Catholic Faith. Let's make this the best advent ever! Just Google 'Parousia Advent Retreat' and you will get the details of how to register.

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

Madonna magazine – a gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year *Madonna* magazine, published by Jesuit Communications, is an ideal spiritual companion – containing daily prayers, deep reflections and faith-focused articles. We invite you to subscribe or consider taking out a gift subscription for a loved one for only \$53 a year. For further information: www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions

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. 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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