

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 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second reading

Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been

preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel

Mk 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist 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.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Reflection

The baptism of Jesus in the gospel of Mark serves as a revelation of the identity of Jesus. Throughout this gospel there is secrecy about who Jesus really is. Whenever a person's faith reveals that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus commands them to remain silent and not tell anyone else about him. However, through the baptism event, the reader is let in to the secret from the outset. Unlike the public announcements of Jesus as the beloved Son of God that occurs in other gospels, in the gospel of Mark, the voice is addressed to Jesus himself and there is no indication that anyone else hears it. The words used are, 'You are my Son' not, 'This is my Son.' But the reader is placed in the privileged position of knowing the truth about Jesus from the very beginning of the gospel. As they read further, they observe the disciples' growing yet imperfect understanding of this truth.

- 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.

Wearing a mask

Wearing a mask, especially in indoor venues like churches and religious services, is now **compulsory**.

Masks can also be seen as an act of charity towards others and can help to stop the spread of viruses and other infectious diseases.

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).

We welcome this week as our

Celebrants: Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Chadi Ibrahim (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.

As from 3 January we are able to have 100 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>

Position Vacant:

Parish Secretary – Sacred Heart Parish,

Blackheath – Applications close 15/1/21

More details at: 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.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us

Ignatian Spirituality in a time of

Engagement Conference: 25 – 27 January

Jesuit College of Spirituality and Newman College invite you to the 'Ignatian Spirituality in a time of Engagement' three-day online conference from 25 to 27 January. The full conference pass is \$200, with a single day pass at \$75 per day.

Registrations are now open, so visit

<https://www.trybooking.com/BMYUO>. For

enquiries, please contact

enquiries@jcs.edu.au or phone (03) 9448

8276.

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

CHALLENGE: Why would a good God allow innocent people to suffer and die to no clear purpose?

DEFENSE: God can bring good from evil and he can more than compensate us.

The faculties that allow suffering—such as the pain receptors in our nervous systems—have a purpose, which is to help us avoid danger, but sometimes they are triggered in situations where they don't help—resulting in apparently purposeless suffering.

Fortunately, God can bring good out of every tragedy, and faith tells us he will (Rom. 8:28; CCC 324). However, there is more that can be said.

For a person with an atheistic perspective, death is the ultimate end. If someone has suffered unjustly in this life, that's it. The person is just out of luck. Nothing can ever make up for the suffering he experienced. But from a Christian perspective, death is not the end. It's a transition, and we will exist forever. That means that no matter what we have suffered in this life or how short our life was, God can make it up to us. Indeed, he can do far more. Paul says: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom. 8:18).

Elsewhere he says, "So we do not lose heart. . . . For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

This is part of what makes it possible to live with the mystery of evil. I may experience evil in this life. From an earthly perspective, I may suffer, but I can endure that if I know that death is not the end and God will more than compensate for what I have suffered innocently. I don't have to know all the reasons why this or that evil occurs, as long as I know that God will make everything right in the end.

Article from Catholic Answers (catholic.com).



WELCOME FR CHADI



St Luke's welcomes this Sunday, Fr. Chadi Ibrahim, as our celebrant. Fr Chadi was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1973. He grew up in a

catholic family of five members. After he finished technical high school he worked for one year, after which he decided to enter the Salesian Congregation.

During his 10 years of formation he spent time in Egypt where he did his pre-novitiate, in Italy where he studied philosophy, and in the Holy Land where he studied theology. He undertook missionary work with the Salesians in many countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine and Italy. He is multilingual, fluent in Arabic, Italian, English, French and Spanish. He has held a number of pastoral responsibilities, including director of an oratory and youth centre, bursar, rector and school principal. He feels blessed to be ministering in the Parramatta diocese, and is located at St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta at present.

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