

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

Jon 3:1-5. 10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Second reading

1 Cor 7:29-31

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel

Mk 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good

News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Reflection:

One of the features of this week's gospel is the immediate response that Jesus inspires from the fishermen as they give up all that they previously knew to follow him. We will see throughout this year of readings that this is characteristic of the Gospel of Mark. This gospel is sometimes referred to as the gospel in a hurry as the writer uses a lot of language that implies haste – 'straight away'; 'immediately'; 'that day'; 'at once'. Such language is used to describe the movement of Jesus around Galilee but it is also used to describe the powerful reactions people have to him.

This week's gospel marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel of Mark. The gospel writer has Jesus clearly announcing his message in plain, simple language: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' That message is as true for us today as it was when those words were first spoken. The kingdom is still close at hand if we would only recognise it in our midst rather than pinning our hopes on some future reward. The call to repent and believe the Good News is as relevant for us as it was for the first believers.

- Greg Sunter

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 Chris Desouza (10am)

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.



BAPTISMS

For enquiries 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.

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.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us

Positions Vacant:

Parish Secretary – St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains and Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath – Applications close 12 February 2021 – Applications close 12/2/21. Details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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.

Annual Legal Red Mass: 4 February

The Annual Red Mass, which gives thanks for the work of those who serve the law, will be held on Thursday 4 February at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7pm, followed by a light supper. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to justice and faith. For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance by emailing events@stpatrcathedral.com.au or by phone to (02) 8839 8411 by Friday 29 January.

Glenbrook Parish Lenten Biblical Studies

Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lam will be running Lenten Biblical studies on the Passion of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Mark at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. The sessions will be held on:

The Trial of Jesus – 23 February at 7.30pm;
The Death of Jesus – 9 March at 7.30pm;
The Resurrection of Jesus – 23 March at 7.30pm

Due to COVID restrictions, places are limited. To register, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au or call the parish office on (02) 4739 8928.

Holy Habits: Resolutions (cont.)

11. *End your purchase with a surprise.*

"Thank you, and have a good day" is so ordinary that cashiers barely hear it. Try saying, "Thank you, and God bless you" with heartfelt expression. They will hear you, usually smile and sometimes respond: "God bless you, too!"

12. *Use sirens and flashing lights as prayer signals.* Pray for the person needing the ambulance speeding by and also for whomever is at the end of a police call. For whatever reasons, they could use some extra prayers.

13. *Forget about yourself.* Humility leads to holiness. Avoid correcting others if it doesn't matter. Be last in line. Thank God for failure, and ask him to lead you to what he wants for you.

14. *Talk to people no one can see.* Get to know the saint of the day, and ask him or her to pray for you.

15. *Give away something you love.* It's fine to donate the things you don't use, but occasionally give away a favourite item. It's the difference between Cain and Abel's offerings to God.

16. *Wear a crucifix.* It's a silent witness to Jesus' love and sacrifice.

17. *Fast some more.* Take a day to give up something like coffee, wearing jewelry or makeup, going on social media, or whatever.

18. *Have a no-complaint day.* Dedicate an entire day each week to not complaining. Weather counts.

19. *Do a house blessing.* Ask a priest or deacon to bless your house in 2021.

20. *Give unexpected gifts.* Release someone from a debt, anonymously give a gift card or money to someone on hard times, or send a pizza or baked goods to a police station or to a nursing home or to hospital employees or to a big family.



Weekly Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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

Youth Corner

The first 'Saints in Training' gathering for 2021 will be held in the Hub at St Luke's College on Friday 5 February at 7pm. All high school aged children welcome.

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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