

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 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second reading

Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Reflection: Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this

reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment. The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

- 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 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.

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).

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

Bishop Vincent's Christmas Message:

Each Christmas season we are asked to hear liberating Good News. God has joined himself to us inseparably! When Mary gives birth to Jesus our Saviour, the 'overshadowing' presence of God is now fully revealed in a precious child. God loves us so much that He becomes one of us! And yet we all struggle with false images and representations of God. Too often they prevent us from seeing the real God at work in our lives.

As Les Murray, the great Australian poet once wrote in *The Boys Who Stole the Funeral*, a dead World War I digger cries out, "The true God gives his flesh and blood. Idols demand yours off you."

Yes, we can all actually make things difficult for ourselves and others, by not properly appreciating the depths of our own faith. Too often, we substitute the wondrous and life-giving mystery of God with something (an idol) that diminishes us.

This Advent our vision of Christ needs to expand. Let's especially remember God's closeness to us and our responsibility to become peacemakers. In this season of peace and goodwill we see our God reduced to the most vulnerable of creatures; another little Middle Eastern boy caught up in homelessness, poverty and a cruel cycle of violence. He gave up everything in order to become one with us. You cannot get closer than that! He comes to us, and stays with us, especially in times of difficulty and loneliness. We might say that Christmas is the feast of 'closeness'. It is the time when family and friends who are separated – by geography, by hurt or anger, or simply by the distances created by time – come together again to celebrate this joyous feast and to renew their bonds with one another and, we hope, with Christ. Christmas reunions can be wonderful. They

can also open old wounds and bring back painful memories. To make Christmas joyful we must be able to forgive one another and let go of past injuries – real and imagined. We humans often struggle mightily our whole lives to really accept this Divine Love that gives itself so totally. But this is precisely the Good News of our Catholic faith. Our God becomes a tiny infant – fragile yet divine. May the Christ child bless you and your loved ones this Christmas 2020 and give you His strength and peace in the New Year ahead.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv

Bishop of Parramatta

WELCOME FR CHADI

St Luke's welcomes for the first time this Sunday Fr. Chadi Ibrahim. He was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1973. He belongs to the Salesian Congregation. During his 10 years in formation he spent time in Egypt, Italy and the Holy Land. He undertook missionary work in many countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine and Italy. He is multilingual, fluent in Arabic, Italian, English, French and Spanish. 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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