

**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**

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses. 'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

*Lord, let your face shine on us.*

**Second Reading**

1 Jn 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

**Gospel**

Lk 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread. They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

**Reflection: Understanding Scripture**

In the final verses of the passage from Luke, Jesus reveals to the disciples that his presence with them is what he'd been talking about when he'd spoken about the fulfilment of the scriptures. And then, 'He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.' This is an important gospel indication that the scriptures are to be read for understanding and for meaning. It is imperative that we delve into the scriptures and look for meaning rather than a surface, literal interpretation that is prominent in much of society today. When we only read the scriptures 'literally' i.e accepting the exact wording as literally true, we deny the depth and breadth of the scriptural messages that are conveyed through image, metaphor, irony and other forms of figurative speech as well as ignoring the rich

contextual information that is often hidden within and behind the text. Jesus' enlightenment of the disciples makes plain the importance of 'understanding' scripture not just blindly accepting it.

- Greg Sunter



**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).**

**We welcome this week as our Celebrants:**

Fr Joseph Nguyen (Vigil)

Fr Gaetan Pereira (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**

The wearing of a mask is recommended in indoor venues where adequate distancing cannot be maintained, including at church and religious services.

### **BAPTISMS**

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

### **ST LUKE'S 2021 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

#### **This year's schedule is:**

##### First Holy Communion

Preparation sessions on Wednesdays at 6pm: May 5, 12, 19, 26.

Sacrament received on Corpus Christi – Saturday, June 5 at 5.30pm Mass and Sunday June 6 at 10am Mass.

##### First Reconciliation

Preparation sessions: Wednesdays at 6pm: July 7, 21, 28

Sacrament received on Wednesday, August 11 from 6 – 7.30pm.

##### Confirmation

Preparation sessions: Wednesdays at 6pm: October 6, 13, 20, 27.

Sacrament on Sunday, Oct 31 with Bishop Vincent.

Preparation sessions at the College at 6pm. Parents will need to attend formation sessions with their children. Enrolment Forms available at our Welcome Table.

Return to Deacon Tony or email to [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.

Bookings are still required for Mass. Please use the Eventbrite ticketing system as follows:

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**

Young Christian Students Worker (full-time) – Parramatta Young Christian Workers –

**Applications close Monday 30 April**

More details at:

[parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

### **Dr Laurie Woods Gospel Study Series**

CCD is pleased to offer a Study of the Gospel of St John with Dr Laurie Woods over 5 Fridays – 23 and 30 April and 7, 14 and 21 May. These sessions, held from 9.30am to 2pm, will open our eyes to the depth of this Gospel and its application to everyday life, and are open to all. Please register with Maree on 8838 3486 or at [maree.collis@parracatholic.org](mailto:maree.collis@parracatholic.org)

### **ONE COLLECTION AT ST LUKE'S**

We will now have just one collection at St Luke's. The previous **First Collection** was for the living costs of the Clergy; these funds being pooled from across the Diocese so they can be equitably distributed. This fund provides for clergy's:

- monthly stipend
- private health insurance
- superannuation contribution

This fund also helps to provide for retired and sick priests.

The **Second Collection** was for our St Luke's community. The many costs of running a parish/faith community are deducted from this account. Some of the expenses covered include:

- Parish operating costs such as insurance, utilities, telecommunications, general maintenance and upkeep of church property
- Parish pastoral programs
- Car expenses for the clergy
- Items used for Mass/liturgies,

including Communion hosts, altar wine, sanitising products, music licencing fees. Several societal changes are converging to change the way collections are conducted: - with greater reliance on credit cards and smart-phone-based payments systems, fewer people carry cash on them today - the arrival of the COVID pandemic has had a further dramatic effect on the reticence of people to handle cash for hygiene reasons. As a result, electronic giving via tap devices or via direct debit are increasingly popular in churches.

This also makes it easier to combine the two collections. There is an established average percentage split between the first and second collections (30% and 70% respectively) across many parishes, applying to funds collected.

Already several parishes across Australia and in our own Diocese (including the Cathedral Parish) have moved to one collection, with a 30/70 split.

As from April, our Pastoral Council has decided that St Luke's will move to have just one collection, with funds split 30/70 to the previous first and second collections respectively. So, all contributions made at Mass, via either cash or tap device, will be split in this way.



### **Weekly Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:**

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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

### **'The Well' offers new refreshment in 2021**

'The Well' is back in 2021. The team are hoping to drip-feed new and relatable content every 72 hours that supports your ministry with family, friends, students, colleagues and strangers. Check it out on [www.thewell.org.au](http://www.thewell.org.au)

### **Youth Corner**

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April, meeting in the Hub at St Luke's Catholic College. All high school aged students are welcome!



### **GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION**

Thanks to the generosity of our St Luke's community, we have been able to send \$2266 to the Franciscan friars responsible for many works of the Church in the Holy Land. Your donations will assist in supporting 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions, keeping schools open for over 10,000 preK-12 students, will support 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers, rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families, preserve 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets, and much more. Thank you!

### **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

Baptisms available most Sundays after Mass. Apply via email.

### **CONTACT US**

Pastoral Director:

Deacon Tony Hoban

Phone:

(02) 8840 8521

Email:

[marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

Website:

[stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au](http://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au)

Facebook:

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

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)