

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

Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10
The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

Responsorial Psalm

The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

Second Reading

1 Cor 15:20-26
Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

Gospel

Lk 1:39-56
Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy – according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

Reflection: Saying 'Yes'

In a world that is increasingly selfish and negative, there is a trend towards isolation from family, neighbours and community. In the face of social isolation, the call to a Christian life is a call to say 'Yes' to life itself and all it offers. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'Yes' to life-giving relationships and decisions and 'No' to life denying relationships and decisions. To say 'Yes' to life is to say 'No' to those things that harm self and harm others. A 'Yes' to life is a 'Yes' to hope; to possibility; to love; to God; and to yourself.

- Greg Sunter

WANT TO GIVE TO ST LUKE'S?

The details for giving electronically to our regular collections are:

1st Collection

(the living costs of clergy in our Diocese):
BSB: 067 950

Account: 000 04265

Account Name: Diocese of Parramatta BOM
Reference: 'Marsden Park' and your name

2nd Collection

(the costs of running St Luke's Community)
BSB: 067 950

Account: 0004026

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park
Reference: Your name

OR:



Choose '**MARSDEN PARK – St Luke's Catholic Faith Community**'

St Luke's Building fund

(for a future Church building)

BSB: 067 950

Account: 0004307

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park
Reference: Your name

Please consider making these recurring payments (weekly).



We welcome this week as our Celebrant:

Fr Gregory Jacobs (10am)

If you have prayer needs, please visit our website

<https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>

and scroll down to the heading; 'Submit your own prayer intention or prayer of thanks.' We have a team of prayer warriors ready to pray for your requests.

If you would like to speak personally, please call me on 8840 8521 or email

tony.hoban@parracatholic.org

Blessings to you and your family at this difficult time.

- Deacon Tony



Use this link for Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/93918900500>

Pastoral letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the COVID 19 vaccination.

Dear brothers and sisters,
As the COVID-19 Delta variant is spreading through Australia, particularly in Western Sydney, with deadly consequences, I am writing to reiterate the importance of vaccination as a means to protect yourselves and others.

I understand some people have concerns about the ethical origins of some vaccines. All vaccines which are recognised as clinically safe and effective may be taken by Catholics in good conscience.

Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI and many cardinals and bishops have already received their COVID-19 vaccines. For my part, I am fully vaccinated since the end of July. The pandemic has caused much uncertainty, pain, and suffering to the whole world.

May we grow in the spirit of solidarity and compassion for all who are vulnerable - here and beyond. May we emerge out of this crisis a better people for a better world. In Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta.

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal

Owing to the COVID lockdown, the Clergy Support Foundation is postponing the Annual Bishop's Father's Day Appeal collection to a later date, when Churches will once again be open. However, the Parramatta Catholic Foundation is assisting the CSF with a mail out/email campaign which will still take place around the beginning of September. Any assistance you wish to give to the retired priests before the Parish Collections can be made via this appeal or online at <https://parracatholic.org/csf> where more information can be found, including a donation button. Thank you, CSF Committee

Join us on 'Home Ground' over the next four weeks

While in lockdown, you're invited to 'HOME Ground'. Online every weeknight for the next four weeks, join us for chat, music, prayer, hot topics and most of all – fun and connection. See the free line-up at parracatholic.org/homeground. The Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team look forward to seeing you on HOME Ground soon.

Fan the Flame – Towards Plenary Assembly One (October 2021)

"Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well" *Matthew 6:25-34*

The Church signifies and builds up the shared life of God's kingdom. This calls all members of the Church to continual conversion from self-serving egoism to self-giving love and a willingness to "bear each other's burdens" (Gal 6:2). (*Instrumentum Laboris #83*)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/



Weekly Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:
Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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

Divine Retreat Centre Daily Silent Adoration Livestream

From 1 August, the Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW, is livestreaming daily silent adoration from 8.45am to 8.45pm on their 'Divine Healing & Retreat Centre Sydney Australia' YouTube Channel. You are free to send prayer requests at any time during the adoration. To tune in, visit

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuFdwfRHPRD95UYnOIFa-IQ>

Online Table Talk "Future Dreaming for Blacktown LGA": 19 August

Members of the St Luke's Catholic Faith community are invited to join a local table talk forum to be held on 19 August from 7pm-8.15pm, via Zoom. This will be an opportunity to get connected during lockdown, to learn about and discuss the questions that will be put to Blacktown Councilors in November prior to election, and to be part of a local movement for more social justice and care for creation. Please join this important discussion here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87590654657>

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth Discernment Weekend: 20 – 22 August

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth offer an online discernment retreat for single women aged 18 to 35 who want to discern their vocation to religious life. The retreat will start at 5pm on 20 August and finish at 12.30pm on 22 August. If you would like to participate, or for more information, please contact Sr Paula on 0449 656 406 or vocationscsfn@gmail.com.

Natural Fertility Awareness Week: 23-29 August

Billings LIFE is pleased to launch Natural Fertility Awareness Week with a free Webinar presentation on this year's theme *Tracking Fertility: Tracking*

Health. An information session about the Billings Ovulation Method® will be held on Monday 23rd August @ 7.30pm - 8.30pm AEST. To register please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-webinar-tracking-fertility-tracking-health-tickets-163000285241> Further information about natural fertility awareness can be found at the Billings LIFE website: <https://billings.life/en/>

Join us for Bible Study via Zoom

See how God's plan in the Bible is part of the plan for your life. Join us Monday nights (starting July 26) at 7pm. The course is called 'From Genesis to Jesus'. Watch a video and then engage in discussion with other St Luke's community members.

Click on this Zoom link to join in: <https://zoom.us/j/93918900500>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RETURNS VIA ZOOM!



For access to our weekly Children's Liturgy class via zoom (9.30-9.50am) please email us at

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

All primary school aged children are welcome to join us.

YOUTH CORNER



The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 20th August via **Zoom**. All high school aged students are 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

Baptisms available most Sundays after Mass. Apply via email.

CONTACT US

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SCHOOL ENQUIRIES: 9854 3100

www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au