

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

1 Kgs 17:7-16

And then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, 'Up and go to Zarephath, a Sidonian town, and stay there.

I have ordered a widow there to give you food.' So he went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks. Addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please,' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel: "Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth.'" The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

Second Reading

Col 3:12-17

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything

except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel

Mt 6:25-34

Jesus said to his disciples: I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin: yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you have so little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Reflection: God's saving justice

The Gospel reading for today is, at first glance, an odd choice to pair with the feast of St Mary of the Cross. Mary MacKillop faced more than a few financial challenges, after all, especially in her youth. The burden of supporting her poor family fell to Mary in her teenage years, and surely no one held it against her for worrying about money, food, or clothing.

But the pairing of saint and gospel makes sense in the context of Mary's vocation. Rather than worrying about herself, she cared for others. In this, Mary MacKillop lived the gospel very effectively. First caring for her immediate family, then for wider relations, soon enough Mary was focused on meeting the many needs of the

communities in which she and her fellow Sisters of St Joseph lived. Through aid, education, and example Mary offered her contemporaries and us an example of faith through works.

From quietly and unobtrusively teaching in a stable in 1866, to founding a religious order that spread throughout and beyond a continent, Mary's spiritual journey was truly focused on "God's saving justice". Tending to Australia's Aboriginal peoples, prisoners facing execution, children requiring education, the homeless, the orphaned, the sick, indeed anybody she saw in need, Mary shows us how God seeks to answer the day's troubles: through us.

- Nick Brodie

WANT TO GIVE TO ST LUKE'S?

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

Reference: 'Marsden Park' and your name

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:



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 Alan Layt (10am)

zoom

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.

It is overwhelmingly evident that the virus is spreading largely among the unvaccinated population. Hence, being fully vaccinated is an important step in not only keeping us safe but also our families and others in the broader community safe and enabling us to get back to some sort of normality.

I understand some people have concerns about the ethical origins of some vaccines. The Catholic Church, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, has declared that the use of such vaccines *does not constitute formal cooperation with abortion*. Therefore, all vaccines which are recognised as clinically safe and effective may be taken by Catholics in good conscience.

Pope Francis himself has encouraged Catholics to take the vaccine saying in an interview earlier this year, "I believe that morally everyone must take the vaccine. It is the moral choice because it is about your life but also the lives of others."

Indeed, 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.

I call on you to heed this clear and strong message from the Pope. I also alert you to the anti-vaccination movement and those who spread misinformation on social media, and regrettably even some clergy. Their opposition to vaccines and public health orders is not in accordance with the Catholic Church.

The pandemic has caused much uncertainty, pain, and suffering to the whole world. Let us pray, however, that it can be an opportunity for renewal and transformation for the human family. 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. The Diocese and partners are working with health authorities in facilitating the vaccine rollout to members of the community in more vulnerable areas. Let us do our part for the common good and work together to end the pandemic.

In Christ,

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

(Given at Parramatta on 6 August 2021)

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>

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 Councillors 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 Online 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.

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>

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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