

**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**

Zep 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**Second Reading**

Phil 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel**

Lk 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’

He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’ A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**Have you thought? – A change of heart**

The baptism that John preached and practised was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognise the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in right relationship with one another they could not be in right relationship with God. In recognising the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment.

- Greg Sunter



**Use this link for Zoom Mass:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/93918900500>

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

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)  
Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

**WANT TO GIVE TO ST LUKE’S?**

The details for giving electronically to our regular collections are:  
1<sup>st</sup> 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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).**

**ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER...**

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](mailto:tony.hoban@parracatholic.org)  
Blessings to you and your family at this difficult time. Deacon Tony

**Christmas Mass times at St Luke’s:**

**Christmas Eve: 7pm & 11pm**

**Christmas Day: 10am**

**(NB: there will be no Vigil Mass on 25/12)**

**Reconciliation at St Luke’s:**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 3.30-5.00pm**

## Confirmation at St Luke's

The Sacrament of Confirmation at St Luke's will be deferred until 2022 due to Covid and lockdown restrictions. Email us at [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org) for further information.

## Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website

([www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)), on Catholic Outlook ([www.catholicoutlook.org](http://www.catholicoutlook.org)) and on our Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta.

## Synod of Bishops – Have your say

What would you say to Pope Francis if you had 10 minutes? Catholics across the world are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops. Find out how to send your message at [parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops](http://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops)



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

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

## Thank You for Supporting CatholicCare's Houses to Homes

Thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Your donation will help CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to provide a loving sanctuary for young mothers in crisis. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal)

## Intercultural Christmas album to raise funds for House of Welcome

A new CD featuring classic Christmas songs in eight languages from the Asia Pacific – Samoan, Filipino, Fijian, Tamil, Tongan, Mandarin, Indonesian and Japanese is raising money for the House of Welcome in the Diocese of Parramatta. Find how to order at [linktr.ee/SoundsChristmasAsiaPacific](http://linktr.ee/SoundsChristmasAsiaPacific)

## Madonna magazine – a gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year

Madonna magazine, published by Jesuit Communications, is an ideal spiritual companion – containing daily prayers, deep reflections and faith-focused articles. We invite you to subscribe or consider taking out a gift subscription for a loved one for only \$53 a year. Find out more at: [www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions](http://www.madonnamagazine.com.au/article/subscriptions)

## Weekly Arabic Mass available in the Diocese

There is an Arabic Mass open to everyone in the Diocese of Parramatta celebrated every Sunday at 7.15pm in St Michael's Church, Blacktown, celebrated by Fr Chadi Ibrahim SDB, Assistant Priest at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 9622 1125.

## Rouse Hill Parish Christmas Novena Dawn Masses: From 16 December

This Christmas, Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill will be celebrating a Novena of Dawn Masses leading up to Christmas. Commencing on 16 December, they will be celebrated at 5am. Bookings are NOT required. For details call 88834063 or email: [rousehill@parracatholic.org](mailto:rousehill@parracatholic.org)

## Divine Retreat Centre Advent Retreat: 17 – 19 December

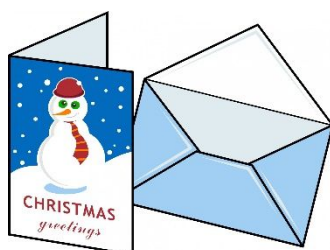
The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting an Advent Retreat from 6pm Friday 17 December to 4pm Sunday 19 December. For more information and bookings, please contact 0468 486 782 or email [drcretreatrego@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatrego@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au) for more information.

## Divine Retreat Centre One Day Pilgrimage Retreat: 26 December

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a one-day pilgrimage from 9am to 1pm on Sunday 26 December and will feature praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass. All retreats are held with NSW COVID-Safe compliance and masks are mandatory. Bookings are required and limited numbers are available. Please call (02) 4372 1598 or email [drcretreatrego@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatrego@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au) for more information.

## Blank Christmas card appeal

Thank you to all those who supported our appeal for blank Christmas Cards, which have now been distributed to inmates at the Francis Greenway Correctional Centre at Berkshire Park. Cyril Bosco (Catholic Chaplain) states that it has been a very successful activity; and that 'the cards were very warmly received'.



## PRE-CHRISTMAS SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION NEXT SATURDAY

We are offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation for St Luke's Catholic

Faith Community members next **Saturday, December 18 from 3.30pm to 5pm** in the Marketplace at St Luke's Catholic College. *A great chance to receive this sacrament of Christ's mercy before Christmas.*

**Thank you to the major sponsor for this year's Christmas Carols, Strive Fitness.**



*Strive Fitness is a new fitness concept which utilises smart equipment to get a*

*fully guided workout experience and assistance in the gym whenever you need it. It's the only gym using smart technology to enhance the workout experience for both the novice and experienced gym goer. We also offer a range of classes including Yoga, Zumba, Bootcamp/ High intensity training classes and boxing. (Strive Fitness: 861 Richmond Rd, Marsden Park)*

## St Luke's also thanks our other Carols sponsors:

*Amber Beverages  
Choice Pharmacy Colebee  
Gracie Barra Blacktown City  
Langtons Fine Wines*

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark)

Address:

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

Postal Address:

PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765