

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

Mi 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah, out of you
will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin
goes back to the distant past, to the days of
old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them till the time when she who is to give
birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his
brothers will come back to the sons
of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord, with the
majesty of the name of his God. They will
live secure, for from then on he will extend
his power to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you;

let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

Heb 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us, to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

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.'

Living the Gospel – Looking for signs

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth, she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

- Greg Sunter



Use this link for Zoom Mass:

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

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Fr Francis (Vigil)

Fr Huy Nguyen SJ (10am)

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).

TIME FOR EVERYONE TO RETURN TO MASS

The Diocese of Parramatta has advised the following:

"On 20 March 2020 Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta were dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice (Canon 1248/2 and Catechism 2181) by virtue of a Decree issued by Bishop Vincent Long Nguyen OFM Conv.

As from 15 December 2021 this Decree will be revoked and the Sunday obligation will be imposed once again, given that public health orders no longer require adherence to density limits in our Church buildings."

Christmas Mass times at St Luke's:

Christmas Eve: 7pm & 11pm

Christmas Day: 10am

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

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 Blessings to you and your family at this difficult time. Deacon Tony

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 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), on Catholic Outlook (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

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



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

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

Bishop Vincent's Christmas message for 2021

Listen to the Bishop's message online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlXR04-gB3M>

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



Last minute Christmas gifts that make a lasting impact

You can make a big difference to the lives of people living in poverty this Christmas. While it has been a difficult and burdensome year for communities around the world, the season of Advent prepares us for the coming of Jesus Christ; a time of celebration, joy and hope.

Despite the challenges this year has brought, we hope that you will consider purchasing a Global Gift this Christmas – a gift that makes a real difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

A Global Gift is a gift that delivers twice the joy, and packs double the impact. Through the Global Gifts website, you can purchase digital Christmas cards for your family and friends, with the proceeds going towards supporting the world's most vulnerable. This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. A Global Gift can provide life-changing essentials like clean water, nutritious food and an education to those doing it tough this year.

Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts today.

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 drcrettreatreg@gmail.com to confirm attendance. Visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au for more information.

Blue Mountains Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta 2022: 2 – 3 January 2022

Celebrate the Christmas season with a two-day pilgrimage and fiesta! Choose from a classic pilgrimage experience or family adventure pilgrimage on Sunday, 2 January then join the family-friendly festivities at St Finbars Parish Glenbrook, including Mass, a

festive meal and children's movie night. Stay overnight, then on Monday 3 January a morning pilgrimage and Mass in the bush. For more information visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

St Luke's Community Carols 2021

Carols 2021 was a great success, bringing so much joy to everyone in attendance. The night featured something for everyone, including festive decorations, Carols in different languages, food, drinks, games – and Santa - for the kids, and the Raffle, with the major prize of \$1000, being drawn at the end of the night. Thank you to the organising committee and all volunteers, the musicians, the sponsors, and everyone who joined us and helped to make this such a memorable occasion.

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 in the gym whenever you need it. (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

1st & 3rd 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

Website:

stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark

Address:

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

Postal Address:

PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765