

**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**

Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the

glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, ‘Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness’. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

**Second Reading**

Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

**Gospel**

Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

**Living the Gospel – Make way!**

Today’s gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It’s like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

- 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.

## Synod of Bishops

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report. Find out more at: <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>



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

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

## Bishop's Christmas Appeal

No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas.

CatholicCare's Houses to Homes provides hope for vulnerable women and children facing abuse and hardship. Your kind donation today will help change the lives of homeless young women, who like Mary, seek a safe haven to raise their newborn child. Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal giving envelopes or online [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.

## Pastoral Ministry Network Oceania

### Webinar: 7 December

The Pastoral Ministry Network is hosting an online Oceania webinar on 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor' with Sr Kathleen Rushton on Tuesday 7 December from 11am to 12.30pm AEDT. The webinar will discuss how can we integrate this Gospel mandate to care for earth and the poor into our everyday life. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Webinar7Dec21>

## 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 [drcretreatreg@gmail.com](mailto:drcretreatreg@gmail.com) to confirm attendance. Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au) for more information.

## Help our inmates feel the Christmas spirit

With the beginning of the Season of Advent upon us, the Diocese of Parramatta, through CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, are collecting blank Christmas cards that will be distributed by our prison chaplains to inmates to send to their families this Christmas. You can leave unused Christmas cards at any CatholicCare office across the Diocese, which can be at <https://catholicoutlook.info/inmatecards>



The final 'Saints in Training' gathering for 2021 will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. This will be the end of year Christmas Party, so bring a friend. RSVP and for more details please email: [saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com)



**St Luke's  
Community  
Carols – 11  
December**

On Saturday 11 December at 6.30pm, St Luke's will celebrate the coming of Christmas with a night of Carols. Enjoy a sausage sizzle or Pork BBQ, soft drinks, ice blocks and cakes, games for the kids and a special appearance by the 'man in red'! It will be held in the Marketplace at St Luke's Catholic College.



**The major sponsor of the St Luke's Christmas Carols in 2021 is 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 is offering the St Lukes community members exclusive membership pricing. (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

## 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

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