

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

Is 60:1-6

Arise, shine out,
Jerusalem, for your
light has come,
the glory of the Lord is
rising on you,

though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading

Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called

together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and returned to their own country by a different way.

Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world.

Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

- Greg Sunter

WANT TO GIVE TO ST LUKE'S?



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."

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

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



Diocese of Parramatta COVID-19 update

Livestreamed Masses from across the Diocese of Parramatta are still available on the Diocesan website <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>. For more information, please visit the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/covid19

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.

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>

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2022

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will begin early next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

Annual Legal Red Mass: 3 February 2022

The Annual Red Mass, which gives thanks for the work of those who serve the law, will be held on Thursday 3 February at St Patrick's Cathedral at 7pm, followed by a light supper. It is also an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to justice and faith. For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance by emailing mili@stpatscathedral.com.au or by phone to (02) 8839 8400.

World Day of the Sick Mass 2022: 11 February 2022

The Annual World Day of the Sick Mass will be celebrated by Vicar General Fr Peter Williams and clergy of the Diocese on 11 February 2022 at 11am at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. The Mass of Our Lady of

Lourdes will be celebrated and will include the Rite of Anointing of the Sick and prayer of blessing for all carers. Refreshments will be available after Mass. For catering purposes, please RSVP to anne.stanton@parracatholic.org or (02) 8838 3456.



Our first 'Saints-in-Training' youth group meeting for 2022 will be on Friday 4th February from 7pm-8.45pm in the Marketplace at St Luke's. For more information email: saintlukesyg@gmail.com

We need You! Youth Leaders

We currently have a small team of leaders who plan, run and organise the youth group evenings twice a month. However, with the growth of the youth group, we need more volunteers to assist and become part of the team. If you have experience in youth ministry or would like to be involved in youth ministry, please contact us! You must have a current working with children check but further training can be provided if needed. Please contact the youth team for further information.

Q & A

From <https://mycatholic.life/>

Q. Do I have to Pray every Day?

A. A few other questions to ask as well: "Do I have to eat every day?" "Do I have to sleep every day?" "Do I have to brush my teeth every day?" For a day, maybe even more, one could forgo doing these things, but a person would not like it and it could actually do them harm. By not praying, one could become self-centred, selfish, and depressed. These are just a few of the consequences. Perhaps that is why Christ commands His disciples to *pray always*.

Prayer is a conversation with God. At times it is a dialogue, but mostly it should be about listening. Sadly, many people think that prayer is telling God what they want or need. These people are disappointed when they do not get what they want. This is why it is important to see it as a conversation where one also allows God to communicate what He wants for that person.

If one practices praying every day, one grows closer to God, one grows closer to the Saints in Heaven, one becomes less self-centred and, therefore, more God-centred. So, start praying to God! Try not to do too much in one day. Prayer, like physical exercise, needs to be built up. One who is out of shape cannot do a marathon on his or her first day of exercise. Find and recite a daily morning prayer and, at the very start

of your day, dedicate it to Christ. Read a passage from the Bible, especially from the Gospels and the Book of Psalms. While reading the passage, simply ask God to open your heart to what He is telling you. Try praying the rosary. If that seems a little much at first, try praying just one decade. The important thing to remember is to not get frustrated but to listen for the Lord to speak. When you speak, keep it focused on asking God to help others, especially the sick and suffering, including the souls in purgatory.

Holy Habits

- 1. End your purchase with a surprise.** "Thank you and have a good day" is so ordinary that cashiers barely hear it. Try saying, "Thank you, and God bless you" with heartfelt expression. They will hear you, usually smile and sometimes respond: "God bless you, too!"
- 2. Use sirens and flashing lights as prayer signals.** Pray for the person needing the ambulance speeding by and also for whomever is at the end of a police call. For whatever reasons, they could use some extra prayers.
- 3. Forget about yourself.** Humility leads to holiness. Avoid correcting others if it doesn't matter. Be last in line. Thank God for failure and ask him to lead you to what he wants for you.
- 4. Talk to people no one can see.** Get to know the saint of the day and ask him or her to pray for you.



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.

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