

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 40:1-5. 9-11
'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading

Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any

righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel

Lk 3:15-16. 21-22

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Have you thought? Trinity

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

- 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 at www.parracatholic.org/covid19

Confirmation at St Luke's

The Sacrament of Confirmation at St Luke's has been 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>

Mass in Mandarin: 16 January 2022

(every third Sunday of the month)

At Our Lady of Angels Church at 3pm, 1 Wellgate Ave Kellyville.

(Or live stream on Facebook at Our Lady of Angels.) *Afternoon Tea after Mass

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.



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. If God made us to become saints, how can we do so?

A. This is a question we should all ask ourselves every day of our lives! However, the answer to this question is never ending. It's true, we are made to be saints. God made us to be one with Him forever in Heaven. We call this holiness, sanctity, or saintliness. But how do we do so?

First, we seek the truth. Truth is discovered by faith. Faith is not just believing in something we cannot know for sure. It's not just wishful thinking. Faith is knowledge. Certain knowledge. And we ultimately obtain faith by allowing God to speak to our inner conscience and reveal that which is true. This happens when two things are present. First, we engage our minds in the truth such as in the Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the teachings of the saints, etc. Second, reading the truth is not enough. We also need the "gift" of faith, meaning that when we hear the truth, God needs to confirm

this truth as "true" in our conscience. God's voice first revealed the truth through the Scripture, the Church or the saint, but then God tells us, interiorly, that this is His Truth. When this happens, we must believe. When this happens, we are gifted with faith. We know, with deep interior certitude, that which God revealed. Second, this process of coming to know the truth in faith is strengthened by prayer. When we pray, it's like adding fuel to a fire. The fire, which is faith, grows in intensity. As it grows in intensity, we grow in faith.

Third, we must live what we come to know through faith. This is an act of our will. When we choose to live the faith we come to know, we grow in charity, holiness and saintliness. We become saints. Though this is a greatly simplified explanation of the path to holiness, hopefully it points you in the right direction.

New Year's Resolutions:

THE POPE FRANCIS LIST

1. Don't Gossip
2. Finish your meals
3. Make time for others
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'
6. Stop judging others
7. Befriend those who disagree
8. Make commitments, such as marriage
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'
10. Be happy

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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