

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

Jer 17:5-8

The Lord says this:
'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart

turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. 'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Responsorial Psalm

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading

1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation

*Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.*

Gospel

Lk 6:17. 20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, renounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. 'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. 'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

Reflection: We are perhaps more familiar with the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew in which the kingdom of heaven is promised to those who are 'blessed' because of their afflictions. Rather than the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Luke presents the same event and teaching as the sermon on the plain as it occurs on 'a piece of level ground'. This version may appear a little more confronting than the Matthew version. Rather than the afflicted being 'blessed', they are to be 'happy'. It seems odd that anybody should be happy to be poor, hungry, mourning or reviled and we would certainly regard these as states of sadness and difficulty; not times for rejoicing at our good fortune! However, this gospel in particular frequently reminds us that God does not think, feel and behave as we might expect. God's actions are frequently contrary to the expectations of society. The Gospel of Luke makes it plain that the reign of God will upend the structures of society. The lowly will be raised and the mighty will be brought low. It is in this context that the poor, the hungry and the outcast are regarded as happy. Their happiness comes from the reassurance that although they are rejected and dismissed by society, they are indeed the most favoured of God. Whatever the world dishes up to such as these, they can rejoice in the knowledge that in the reign of God their fortunes will be reversed and they will be favoured. However, just as the fortunes of the poor and afflicted will be

reversed for the better, those who are rich, well fed, happy and well regarded will also have their fortunes reversed. Alas to them! Their comfort and joy leaves no room for the generosity of God!

- 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).

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

Donate to Caritas Australia Emergency Appeal for Tonga

Tonga is reeling after a violent underwater volcano eruption triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the country in ash and rock. Roads, bridges and homes are damaged. Water supplies have been contaminated by volcanic ash and saltwater. Tonga needs your prayer and support urgently. Give now to help with emergency response. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific or call 1800 024 413 toll free to make your donation.

Positions Vacant:

- *Project Officer* – Parramatta Young Christian Workers
- *Graduate Accountant* – Diocesan Development Fund, Diocese of Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment



Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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

ACU database offers easily accessible Church teaching on ethics questions

Explore www.ethicsfinder.com. Wish you could easily find Church teaching and the best articles, books and videos on bioethics, business ethics, cancel culture, human rights, marriage, family, subsidiarity, and 100+ other topics? Try ACU's free, digital tool www.ethicsfinder.com.

God's Word 2022 daily reflections booklet available at St Pat's Gift Shop!

God's Word 2022, a book of daily reflections, offers a great service for all who wish to unite their prayer with the Sacred Liturgy and be spiritually nourished by the Word of God. Copies are now available from St Patrick's Gift Shop, located in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta for \$19.95. Visit the website www.stpatricksgiftshop.com or grab in store on Tuesdays to Fridays 10am-3pm and Sundays 9am-1pm.

Missionaries of God's Love Sisters Silent Retreat: 18 – 20 February

The Missionaries of God's Love Sisters are hosting a silent retreat from 18 to 20 February at Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Road, Varroville. Start your year off right and come away for the weekend into the silence, guided by thematic inputs and optional prayer experiences. Spiritual direction is also available by request. To register and for more information, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BWMJG>

Glenbrook Parish Liturgical Formation Day: 19 February

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a liturgy formation day on 'The Mass – we go there but we don't get it' on Saturday 19 February, beginning with Morning Mass at 9.15am and finishing at 1pm with lunch. Fr Peter Williams AM, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia will present a talk, followed by a Q&A session. Cost is a donation for catering purposes. Please RSVP by 15 February to secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Synod 2023: Our Decision Making

Our aim is to make decisions by discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community. How well do we do this, and which Catholic discernment & decision-making methods include everyone? How can we do better? Have a prayerful conversation with your family, friends or colleagues, and tell Bishop Vincent and Pope Francis what you find! Online submissions close 26 February. Find out more at bit.ly/synod2023

Pastoral Formation offering leadership and formation courses in 2022

In 2022 deepen your community connections and grow in faith! The Pastoral Formation (Parramatta Diocese) team are offering two programs to support you:

- 1) Ministry Leadership Program: Perfect for current and aspiring ministry leaders. 10 or 20 sessions (\$10/session).
- 2) Themes of Faith Program: Ideal for people interested in asking life & faith questions in discussion groups. 10 sessions (\$5/session). See website pfparra.org.au or email met@parracatholic.org for more details.

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2022

Getting married in 2022? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare.

Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website.

Email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.



26 February 2022

Save the Date!

Our first Bunnings Sausage Sizzle 'Church Building' fundraiser for this year will

be on 26th February, from 8am-4pm, at Bunnings Marsden Park. We will need many volunteers to help make this day a real success. If you would like to assist with cooking/selling please email us at: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org for a link to the roster.

2022 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES AT ST LUKE'S

First Holy Communion

Preparation dates (6pm – 7pm):
Wednesday May 25,
Wednesday, June 1
Wednesday, June 15
Sacrament received: Sunday, June 19

First Reconciliation

Preparation Dates (6pm – 7pm):
Wednesday, July 20
Wednesday, July 27
Wednesday, August 3
Sacrament received: Wednesday, August 10 or 17 (TBC)

Confirmation

Preparation Dates:
Wednesday, October 12, 6-7pm
Wednesday, October 19, 6-7pm
Friday, October 21, 7-8.45pm*
Friday, October 26, 6-7pm
Sacrament received: Sunday, October 30, 10am Mass
* As part of St Luke's Youth Group (Saints in Training).



'Saints-in-Training'

youth group will meet again on Friday 18th February from 7pm-8.30pm in the

Marketplace at St Luke's. For more information email: saintlukesyg@gmail.com



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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