

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

Jos 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Second Reading

2 Cor 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he

began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Have you thought? The Prodigal

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word *prodigal* is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

- 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 Ron McFarlane (Vigil)

Fr Chris Desouza (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

Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart
and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.
Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life,
not slavery but freedom.
You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength
to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen



**EMERGENCY
Ukraine Appeal**

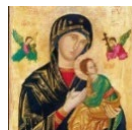
Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to people in Ukraine.

DONATE TODAY
www.caritas.org.au/ukraine
1800 024 413 toll free



Positions Vacant:

Administration Support – Formation for Mission, Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 28 March**
Pastoral Formation Facilitator – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Sunday 10 April**
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>



Project Compassion Caritas Australia's Lenten Project

Compassion campaign has begun and will lead us all the way towards Easter. This year's theme For All Future Generations comes from the biblical story of the great flood. It reminds us that the good we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Find out more at caritas.org.au/project-compassion.

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal raising funds for Catholic Care's Community Drop-



In Centres

Catholic Care is working hard to reach our neighbours in need and to reduce social isolation and loneliness throughout our community. Will you be a Good Samaritan and help Catholic Care reach our vulnerable neighbours? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan the QR code.

Dr Laurie Woods Gospel Study Series:

Starting 29 April

All are invited to join the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) for catechesis on the Gospel of St Luke with Dr Laurie Woods over 5 Fridays starting 29 April. The sessions will be held from 10am to 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre (formerly the IFM), Blacktown. To RSVP, please contact ccassar.ccdparra@hotmail.com

Congratulations Jerome!

We congratulate Jerome D'Rozario on reaching the next stage of his goal of being ordained as a Deacon in our Diocese of Parramatta. Like Deacon Tony, Jerome is a married man and is pursuing ordination to the permanent diaconate. Bishop Vincent recently approved for Jerome to be called to Candidacy on May 17. Candidacy is the stage before ordination. Jerome has been on a pastoral placement at St Luke's since late 2020 as part of his formation. He serves as acolyte at Mass, is leading Baptism preparation sessions and has assisted with Bible study and Stations of the Cross. He is a member of our Leadership Team and an ex-officio member of our Pastoral Council. We wish Jerome every blessing as he moves to the next stage of his formation journey. Please keep him in your prayers.



Photo: Jerome and Theresa D'Rozario with Bishop Vincent.

ST Luke's Lent Reflection Session: 2 April

Lent is a time of preparation, a time of fasting, and a time for forgoing some good things – all in order to create more space in our lives for an even better thing: a deeper relationship with God.

Deacon Tony and his Team have organised a Lenten Reflection Session next Saturday, April 2, between 2 pm and 5 pm. This will be a session where we will share, collaborate, evaluate and continue the journey of life with a better understanding of ourselves so we will be able to respond to Jesus' call promptly and purposefully. It will be held at the Marketplace at St Luke's Catholic College.

Use this QR Code to express your interest in attending:



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



In the Marketplace at St Luke's every Friday evening during Lent from 7-7.30pm

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*

Wednesday, 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 1st April from 7.30pm-9.00pm 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 every second Sundays after Mass. Apply via email.

CONTACT US

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