

**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**

Acts 5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.*

**Second Reading**

Rv 1:9-13, 17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God’s word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord’s day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, ‘Write down all that you see in a book.’ I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, ‘Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.’

**Gospel Acclamation**

*You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!*

**Gospel**

Jn 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you,’ and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. ‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’ After saying this he breathed on them and said: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’ Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord’, he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. ‘Peace be with you’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him: ‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**Gospel Reflection**

There is something attractive about Thomas the Doubter – something about his obstinate integrity. He did not too readily accept the other disciples’ report that they had seen the Risen Lord. What is more attractive is that the other disciples – now the ‘true believers’ – did not expel Thomas for his doubting but kept him within their circle. Perhaps a lesson there for the Church not to ‘too quickly raise the barriers’ excluding those struggling with

belief in the Christian faith or some aspect of it.

Doubt and questioning are a proper part of being human. It is how we mature and make progress in the faith, as much as in other areas of life. A point may come where a person may not remain in the Church with any integrity. But a dismissive, excluding Church is not the Church of this Gospel story.

But the special attraction of this gospel story for Thomas and therefore for us, lay in what he saw. He was granted the special gift of seeing the risen Lord bearing the wounds of his crucifixion. I believe the seeing of the risen body of Jesus bearing those wounds told Thomas something vital about his own destiny. Do you want to spend eternity as the clone or replica of some saintly model? I don’t. I want to be me – identifiably me. I don’t want to be drained of all the effects of my time on earth, even the ones which have wounded me, because they have made me who I am. I don’t want to be bleached of all colour. I think that is what Thomas realised: that he would retain his identity in the next life, even bearing the wounds of his life, but wounds transformed.

What sort of wounds? The wounds unjustly or unfairly inflicted by others or just by the vagaries and chances of life:

- the sense of desolation when abandoned by a member of the family or a friend;
- the hurt maliciously inflicted, maybe physical, maybe an attack on one’s good character;
- a great capacity to love or to be loved unfulfilled;
- the death of someone we love dearly, the void, the heartache;
- the chronic physical or mental illness which saps our strength.

These leave their mark imprinted on our character. These are the wounds which shape our lives. They make us who we are at the moment of death. At that moment, I will be, you will be, the wounded person whom - we pray - God will love without reserve.

- Fr Michael Tate

**We welcome this week as our Celebrants:**

**Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)**

**Fr John Hogan (10am)**

## EASTER OFFERING TO ST LUKE'S



Scan the QR code and choose Option 2: 'For your parish's ministry and maintenance' and select from parish list '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

### 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)  
Deacon Tony



**EMERGENCY Ukraine Appeal**

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to people in Ukraine.

**DONATE TODAY**  
[www.caritas.org.au/ukraine](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine)  
1800 024 413 toll free



#### Positions Vacant:

*Administrative Support Coordinator – Diocese of Parramatta*

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)  
*Fundraising Campaigns Manager – Put Your Faith into Action For the Common Good!*  
For information, please call Dianne Wigan, Head of Fundraising, on 0408 922 478.



#### Novena to the Mother of Perpetual Help:

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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

#### Catholic schools across the Diocese are enrolling now!

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta are enrolling now for 2023. To learn more please contact your local Catholic school or visit our website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/find-a-school](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/find-a-school).

## Thank You for supporting the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal



Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation and Catholic Care thank you whole-heartedly for your generosity and support for Catholic Care's Community Drop-in Centres. Because of your kindness, Catholic Care can provide welcoming places for everyone in our community.

And thanks to your compassion, Catholic Care can reach more of our vulnerable neighbours who may be isolated and in need of support.

Thank you for being a Good Samaritan and for loving your neighbours in need.

#### 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](mailto:ccassar.ccdparra@hotmail.com)

#### View the draft Diocesan synthesis for the Synod of Bishops

From April 19, all are invited to VIEW the online version of the draft synthesis from the Diocese of Parramatta Writing Committee for the Synod of Bishops 2023. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/> and email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) with your reflections. The Diocese of Parramatta is a 'listening Church' we invite continued dialogue through both the website and direct email address.

#### Celebrate the Diocesan report to the Synod of Bishops: 1 May

On May 1 all are invited to CELEBRATE the final document of the Diocese of Parramatta submissions to the Synod of Bishops 2023. Join Bishop Vincent at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills for this special gathering at the 9:30am mass. For catering purposes and to RSVP email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org). The Diocese of Parramatta is a 'listening Church' we invite continued dialogue. For more information visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/>



'Saints-in-Training' youth group will meet again on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 7.00pm-8.30pm in the Marketplace at St Luke's. For more information email: [saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com)



30 April 2022

Our next Bunnings Sausage Sizzle 'Church Building' fundraiser for this year will be on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 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](mailto: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\*  
Wednesday, October 26, 6-7pm  
Sacrament received: Sunday, October 30, 10am Mass  
\* As part of St Luke's Youth Group (Saints in Training).

#### 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 every second Sundays after Mass. Apply via email.

#### CONTACT US

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