

**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 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring

forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Lord, come and save us.*

**Second Reading**

Jas 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers and sisters, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel**

Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and

the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the one who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**Reflection: John the Baptist**

Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John's wellbeing. He doesn't appear to express any concern about John's imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. John the Baptist and Jesus were related; they were cousins. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John's greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

**Living the Gospel – Gaudete!**

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

- Greg Sunter



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

Wednesdays at 7.30pm via Zoom:

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



If you have prayer needs, please visit our website:

<https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>

We have a team of prayer warriors ready to pray for your requests.



**Newly baptised**

Please pray for Gracie Reynolds, who was newly baptised this week in our faith community, that she will carry on the mission of Jesus throughout her life. We also pray for her family who will support her on the journey.

**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 Church Building fund

BSB: 067 950

Account: 0004307

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park.

Reference: (Your name)

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

Fr John Hogan (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

**St Luke's Christmas Mass times:**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11pm

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am

**Reconciliation:**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 4.30-5.20pm

**2022 Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times**

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website ([www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)), on Catholic Outlook ([www.catholicoutlook.org](http://www.catholicoutlook.org)) and on our Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta.

### OUR COMMUNITY PRAYER

O God, you show us in St Luke, our patron, a person of faith who desired all people to come to know and love you in the community of your Church.

Teach us to embrace what St Luke pioneered: discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Trusting in your love and grace and nourished by Word and Sacrament may we grow in our relationship with you and together make our Catholic Faith Community a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Luke, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

### Glenmore Park Advent Parish Mission: 16 and 17 December

St Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park, is organising a Parish Mission during Advent on the theme of 'Bethlehem - House of Bread' on Friday 16 December at 7pm and Saturday 17 December at 5.30pm. Includes Adoration, Mass and Preaching. For more information, please contact Fr Suresh on 0488 448 844 or visit the event Facebook page: <https://fb.me/e/2itSOhckf>

### Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens Parish Carols by Candlelight: 17 December

St John XXIII Parish invites you to their annual Carols by Candlelight evening on Saturday 17 December at 7.30pm in the grounds of St John XXIII Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 8883 5981.

### Divine Retreat Centre One Day Pilgrimage Retreat: 18 December

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is hosting a one-day pilgrimage from 9am to 4pm on Sunday 18 December and will feature praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass, with separate ministry for children and teenagers. Bookings are required and limited numbers are available. Please call (02) 4372 1598 or email [drcsydney@gmail.com](mailto:drcsydney@gmail.com) to confirm attendance.

Visit [www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au) for more information.

### Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,

Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2022 to [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### Patrician Brothers College Blacktown Enrolment Opportunities

Patrician Brothers College, Blacktown, has a small number of vacancies for Year 7 2023 and is accepting early applications for 2024. Contact the College Enrolment Department for more information on (02) 8811 0300, email [patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au) or <https://forms.gle/ANccWVNQBZjQ4pSD6>



### Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing Service

No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously by scanning this QR code or at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal).

Thank you for your prayers, compassion, and help to end homelessness.



### Diocese of Parramatta WYD23 Pilgrimage Registrations Open!

Registration for WYD23 in Lisbon has now opened. Young people aged 16-35 can now view our itinerary, inclusions, indicative pricing, register and pay their \$800 deposit to secure their place. Limited spaces still available to join our team of 170 pilgrims with Bishop Vincent. Visit [www.parrawyd.org](http://www.parrawyd.org)

### ACBC Advent Appeal for Ukraine

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at: [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)



### Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards that reflect real items that support vulnerable communities around the globe.

Visit [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.

### Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin ON 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

### "QUO VADIS?" Pilgrimage to Israel and Rome: 5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023



At the request of many of his previous pilgrims, Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year. The pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter. Details can be found at [www.olivreetravel.com.au](http://www.olivreetravel.com.au) under Upcoming Tours, via the QR code, or please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email [wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org](mailto:wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org)



### Join the Catholic Bushwalking Club

The Sydney-based Catholic Bushwalking Club seeking new members to join their club. Membership is not restricted to Catholics, and is open to all who share an interest in bushwalking and the outdoors. Membership offers a choice of graded walks for a variety of fitness levels on most weekends, and some on weekdays. To learn more about the Club and to become a member, visit <http://www.cbcsnw.org.au/> or call Adriana on 0478 919 427.

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

Baptisms available every second Sunday after Mass. Apply via email.

### CONTACT US

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