



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 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid

to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Gospel Reflection

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

- Greg Sunter

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)



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.

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Fr John Hogan (Vigil)

Fr Huy Nguyen (10am)

St Luke's Christmas Mass times:

Saturday 24th December 5.30pm

Saturday 24th December 11pm

Sunday 25th December 10am

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.

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), on Catholic Outlook (www.catholicoutlook.org) and on our Diocesan social media channels. Merry Christmas from the Diocese of Parramatta. 0488 448 844 or visit the event Facebook page: <https://fb.me/e/2itSOHckf>

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

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 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.

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

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



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 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 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 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.olivetreetravel.com.au under Upcoming Tours, via the QR code, or please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email 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.cbcnsw.org.au/> or call Adriana on 0478 919 427.

Continuing to Build Safe Parishes Together in 2023: An Update from the Office for Safeguarding.

"New Year's Dash" Training Opportunities! April 2023 marks the first two years of our Mandatory Safeguarding Training Program. Have you had a chance to complete your Safeguarding Training yet?

Take advantage of these 'New Year' dates in readiness for ministry in 2023:

*Mary Immaculate Parish – 125 Barnier Drive Quakers Hill (All modules)
Mon 13 Feb: 9.30am - 2.30pm

* St Aidan's Rooty Hill – 9 Adelaide Street Rooty Hill

Module 1: Thurs 9 Feb (7.00pm-8.00pm)

Module 2: Thurs 16 Feb (7.00pm-8.30pm)

Module 3: Thurs 23 Feb (7.00pm-8.30pm)

Please register for one of these options by emailing:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you would like to complete the training online 'Sign Up' by clicking on this link:

<https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at:

maria.kervin@parracatholic.org .

Advent/Summer 2022 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Advent | Summer 2022 version of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! In this edition, discover how our multicultural families across the Diocese are celebrating Christmas, learn about using Christmas to deepen your marriage and read Bishop Vincent's Christmas message. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

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

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