

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 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the

spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading

Rom 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture

says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel

Mt 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Reflection: Out of the wilderness

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest

Community Christmas Carols

10 December 2022

6.30pm-8.30pm

In the Marketplace

Food & drinks for sale

Be entertained and sing along to your favourite carols

emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

- 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 Joseph Nguyen (10am)

St Luke's Christmas Mass times:

Saturday 24th December 5.30pm

Saturday 24th December 11pm

Sunday 25th December 10am

Reconciliation:

Saturday 17th December 4.30-5.20pm

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.

Positions Vacant

*Parish Office Coordinator – St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong – Applications close 10pm Sunday 4 December 2022

* Parish Bookkeeper (part-time) - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Wentworthville – Applications close 10pm Tuesday 6 December.

Details at: parracatholic.org/employment

*Personal Assistant, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta. Full-time position based at Parramatta. Please contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources for further information on [0402 210 055](tel:0402210055).

Catholic Theological College Information Session: 5 December

The Catholic Theological College is hosting an online information session 'CTC 2023 Find Your Path' on Monday 5 December at 730pm AEDT. The event will be an ideal opportunity to explore the possibilities offered at CTC for personal, theological, and spiritual development through a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Registration is essential via ctc.edu.au.

Catholic Women's League Diocese of Parramatta Christmas Luncheon: 7 December

The Catholic Women's League, Diocese of Parramatta, invites you to its fun and friendly Christmas Luncheon at St Anthony of Padua Parish Hall, 27 Aurelia Street, Toongabbie, on Wednesday 7 December from 12noon. The lunch will be \$20 a head, with the Catholic Women's League subsidising most of the cost. For any enquiries, and to book individually or a table, please contact Lyn on 0412 689 261.

Glenbrook Parish Advent Retreat: 10 December

You are invited to join St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook for their Advent Retreat, titled, 'Jesus the greatest gift from God' on

Saturday 10 December from 9am to 3pm. Most Rev David Walker, Bishop Emeritus of Broken Bay, will be the guest presenter. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the parish office on (02) 4742 6958 or secretary@stfinbars.org.au

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. Come and receive the Grace of God from Adoration, Mass and Preaching. All are welcome. 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, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens, 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.

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.

The Diocese of Parramatta is heading to WYD23 in Lisbon

Bishop Vincent has announced a pilgrimage to the next World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from July 21 – August 11, 2023. Young people 16-35 and their families are encouraged to learn more at www.parrawydy.org. For all enquiries,

contact James Camden, Head of Mission Engagement james.camden@parracatholic.org

"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



ORDINATION OF JEROME D'ROZARIO

Members of our faith community are welcome to attend the Mass of Ordination for Jerome D'Rozario and 4 other men next Saturday, December 10, at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Jerome has been on pastoral placement with us for the last two years. He will be ordained as a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Parramatta. We also look forward to Jerome preaching the homily at our 10am Mass the following day, December 11. We wish Jerome and his wife Theresa, and their family every blessing in the lead up to this significant day in their life of faith.



Newly baptised

Please pray for Theodore James Mackey, who was newly baptised this week in our faith community, that he will carry on the mission of Jesus throughout his life. We also pray for his family who will support him on his journey.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm
Sunday 10.00am

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

CONTACT US

Pastoral Director:

Deacon Tony Hoban

Phone:

(02) 8840 8521

Email:

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Website:

stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark

Address:

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

Postal Address:

PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765