

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 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he

provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

*My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?*

Second Reading

Phil 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel

Mt 26:14 – 27:66

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Gospel Reflection

The Passion narrative, as described in the gospel of Matthew, is keen to drive home two particular points. Firstly, throughout this gospel, the gospel writer is at pains to demonstrate Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of scripture. At the time of the arrest and the use of the thirty pieces of silver, we are reminded that these things took place to fulfil scripture. Secondly, this particular gospel emphasises the innocence of Jesus throughout the passion narrative: he is

'sold out' by one of his followers; his trial before the Sanhedrin is a farce; his most loyal follower denies association with him; Pilate declares himself innocent of Jesus' blood and the crowd accepts the consequences of their actions. At no point is any hint of guilt cast over Jesus. He is an innocent whose fate has been manipulated by others. In this gospel there is no conversation between Jesus and the criminals between whom he is crucified. There is no suggestion that Jesus too is a criminal who is deserving of his fate. His innocence is manifest.

These two themes merge together in this gospel. The manner of Jesus' arrest, trial and death are all in accordance with the prophecy of scripture (i.e. in accordance with God's will), and yet it is emphasised throughout that Jesus is innocent. There can be no accusation that Jesus is in any way deserving of his treatment and yet what befalls him is in keeping with God's plan. It emphasises the sacrificial act made by Jesus: a proven innocent giving his life for the good of others. The actions of those who plot against Jesus to seek his downfall actually serve to bring about his purpose. No other outcome was possible. The writer assures the audience that the death of Jesus was no accident; it was intended from the very beginning.

- Greg Sunter

ST LUKE'S HOLY WEEK AND EASTER:

MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday Mass – 7pm (*followed by Adoration and Evening Prayer*)

Good Friday Stations of the Cross – 10am

Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 3pm

Easter Vigil Mass – 6pm

Easter Sunday Mass – 10am

RECONCILIATION

Thursday, 6 April 6 – 6.50pm
(before Holy Thursday Mass)

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)



ST LUKE'S TURNS 5

Save the date: 16 April

Join us to celebrate 5 years as a worshipping Catholic faith community. Enjoy International food, jumping castle, fairy floss and more. After the 10am Mass Sunday 16 April!

OFFERING FOR 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'**



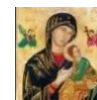
St Luke's Church Building fund

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.

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.



SRE

Commissioning

Last Sunday four members of our Community (Catherine & Noel

Talam, Neng Passigna, and Felicita Fernando) were commissioned as Catechists for their work in local public schools, teaching the Good News of Jesus. (Two members of the team - Em Passigna & Jenny Callos - were not present.) If you would like to join this passionate team, please contact Catherine Talam on 0406 783 805 or at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Positions Vacant: Policy Coordinator

The Diocese of Parramatta is recruiting for a part-time Policy Coordinator to work within the Chancery. If you have experience in policy writing and tertiary qualifications in Law, HR or compliance, we encourage you to apply. For a confidential chat, call Marie lemma on 0499 874 420 or email your CV and cover letter to: parracatholicjobs@parracatholic.org
More details: parracatholic.org/employment



Community members, Althea Dela Cruz and Bryce Vinensig, will be attending WYD Lisbon this year and are looking for support to

assist with their financial costs. You can support them at:
Althea <https://gofund.me/06b538b0>
Bryce <https://gofund.me/2b263c7c>

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians



Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is preparing men who have been called by God to be good shepherds to serve His

people. Will you support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code.

Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their spiritual journey to become priests.

CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 7 April

Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

Glenbrook Parish Good Friday Music and Meditation: 7 April

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a performance of the music of J.S. Bach on Good Friday, 7 April, from 7.30pm in the parish church. Offering choral and organ music of J.S. Bach, this annual service will feature several of the wonderful chorale settings from the Passions according to St John and St Matthew. Suggested donations for entry are \$15 for adults, \$10 for concessions. Any enquiries, please contact 0421 105 017.

Kellyville Parish Divine Mercy Sunday Celebrations: 16 April

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, on Sunday 16 April starting with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 1pm followed by a Procession, Rosary, Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet and Benediction before Holy Mass at 3pm. Confessions from 1pm. Piety items for sale. Bring pictures and statues for special blessing. Refreshments available after Holy Mass. Everyone is most welcome.

Caritas Australia Turkey and Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal



A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Türkiye and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

MET FaithLIFE Scripture Course: Starting 2 May

Want to learn more about different ways to pray? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on "Prayer" with Br Barry Donaghue, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesdays: 2 + 9 + 16 May. Downstairs at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

The FaithFeed On The Move: 7 May

Have questions about life & faith? Join with others on the search at The FaithFeed live studio audience - hosted by Glenbrook in the Mountains Deanery - all are welcome! The FaithFeed will be on Sunday 7 May at the parish hall after the 6PM mass. Doors open 7:00PM for a 7:30PM start. The night will feature faith stories + live music + activities + great conversation. Book now: <https://tinyurl.com/tffrego>

LENTEN CHALLENGE 2023

PRAYFASTSERVE

3 Apr: Remember and pray for the dead; pray for their eternal repose
4 Apr: Refrain from talking/fighting back; pray for fortitude
5 Apr: Invite others to go to confession; pray for conversion
6 Apr: Pray before the Blessed Sacrament; pray for the Universal Church
7 Apr: Reflect on the Lord's Passion; venerate the cross
8 Apr: Attend the Easter Vigil; pray for the sanctification of the world
9 Apr: Happy Easter!
Thank God for everything.

2023 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES AT ST LUKE'S

First Holy Communion

Preparation dates (6pm - 7pm):
Wednesday May 10
Wednesday May 17
Wednesday May 24
Sacrament received: June 10 & 11

First Reconciliation

Preparation Dates (6pm - 7pm):
Wednesday August 16
Wednesday August 23
Wednesday August 30
Sacrament received: Wednesday September 6 (6-8pm)

Confirmation

Preparation Dates:
Wednesday October 4 (6-7pm)
Wednesday October 11 (6-7pm)
Friday October 20 (7-8.45pm*)
Wednesday October 25 (6-7pm)
Sacrament received: Sunday October 29

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm
Sunday 10.00am

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

CONTACT US

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