

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**

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you

might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

**Second Reading**

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

**Gospel**

Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

**Reflection**

The gospel continues on from the parable of the Sower that we heard last week. Divine Wisdom, now present in Jesus, continues to teach those who would listen. If God, the householder, sows only good seed why is it that there are such mixed results? The parable makes two points. Firstly that an enemy is responsible for the weeds, not the householder; secondly that the householder will deal with these weeds at the harvest time. It is important to read this parable in its context. Jesus is dealing with why so many do not respond to his teaching, for his ministry receives a very mixed response. In the symbolism of the parable, the reign of God that Jesus announces is met by vigorous opposition from the powers of evil. This is the reality in Jesus' time, the reality faced by Matthew's community, and it continues to be our reality. The voice of the Gospel continues to struggle to be heard in our present society. With many of the complex issues we face it is not easy to discern the weeds from the wheat. The parable seems to suggest that the servants need to live with both the wheat and the weeds and leave the task of judgment to God. Jesus offers this teaching to console and encourage his followers. Their task, as servants, is to sow goodness. The task of destroying evil is God's. Perhaps an even greater challenge is to realise that the parable speaks about me. The paradox within my own life – I too have to learn to live with the wheat and the weeds within my own heart. The garden of our soul will always need a little weeding. Knowing the weeds and wheat within our own individual lives, can help us be a little more patient, or tolerant of the weeds and wheat around us – in our families, communities, our Church.

- Mary Coloe

**OFFERING FOR ST LUKE'S**

To help support the living costs of the clergy and contribute to the operating costs of St Luke's:

BSB: 067 950

Account No: 0004026

Account name: St Luke's

Reference: Your name



St Luke's Church Building fund

BSB: 067 950

Account: 00004307

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park.

Reference: (Your name)

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

**Fr Kevin Medilo (Vigil & 10am)**



**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.



**'Saints in Training'**

All high school aged students are welcome!

Snacks & drinks will be provided.

**When:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July

**What time:** 7pm-8.30pm

**Where:** Marketplace St Luke's

RSVP email: [saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

**Be a Member at our Diocesan Synod**

If you are someone with a commitment to discern prayerfully with others what God wants for the whole diocese, then you might be called to be a member at our first Diocesan Synod! Details of the selection criteria and requirements are available on our website now [parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://parracatholic.org/synod2023). Applications are welcome now until 31 July.

**What's happening at St Luke's  
'Calendar of Events'**

**28 JUL** - Saints in Training Youth Group in the Hub 7-8.30pm

**30 JUL** – Final date for SYNOD submissions

**11 AUG** – Saints in Training Youth Group in the Hub 7-8.30pm

**16 AUG** – First preparation session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**20 AUG** – Community morning tea; enjoy a cuppa and fellowship (bring a plate of food to share)

### Prayer for our Diocesan Synod

*O God, who always walks with us  
on the journey of life, we call upon you  
to lead us forth united.*

*Bless and guide our Diocesan Synod.  
Keep us anchored in your love.*

*Open our hearts as we listen and discern.  
Reveal to us the way we are called  
to go out into the deep.*

*Give us the courage to pursue  
the mission with bold humility.*

*May we experience renewal in our local Church  
today,*

*and for generations to come.*

*We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ,  
who in the power of the Holy Spirit continues to  
guide your Church,*

*to the fullness of your Kingdom now, and  
forever. Amen*

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.*

*St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.*

### Fr Carl Ashton Funeral Arrangements: 25 July

Fr Carl Ashton died on Thursday, aged 86. A Vigil Mass will be held on 24 July at Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South, from 7pm, followed by a prayer vigil. The Requiem Mass will be held on 25 July at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys. Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Fr Carl.

### CRA National Justice Seminar: 26 July

Be inspired, challenged, and uplifted as we approach the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Hear from Rachel Perkins, Dr Shireen Morris, Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO.

At L18 Tenison Woods House, 8–20 Napier St, North Sydney (9.30am-3.30pm)

CRA Member: \$160 per person

Non-member: \$180 per person

Enquiries: Taylor Coutinho 557 2695

[ea@catholicreligious.org.au](mailto:ea@catholicreligious.org.au)

Register online by 20 July 2023 at

<https://events.humanitix.com/cra-national-justice-seminar-lift-your-voice>

### Catholic Social Services Australia webinar series on The Voice: 27 July

Catholic Social Services invites you to join them for a series of webinars to learn more about the upcoming referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. To book tickets, please visit

[www.trybooking.com/CHXKH](http://www.trybooking.com/CHXKH)

### Special Needs Support Group: 30 July

Where: Good Shepherd Church

Address: 136 Hyatts Rd Plumpton

Where children with Special Needs and their families can come together in faith and have an opportunity to share their stories and experiences with each other. It is also a time for your child to explore the church in a quiet environment and spend time with Jesus. For more information contact Maryrose 0433265579.


### Follow our World Youth Day pilgrimage from home!

170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting [catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News](http://catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News) or scanning the QR code.

### Rouse Hill Parish Family Fiesta: 6 August

The Annual Our Lady of the Angels Family Fiesta will be on Sunday 6 August at 1 Wellgate Avenue, North Kellyville. Celebrations commence with Mass at 11am followed by a procession. Rides, Entertainment, Petting Zoo and wonderful International Food will be available from 1pm and continue throughout the afternoon with a fireworks display to finish at 6pm. This is a wonderful event for all the family and we hope to see you there!

### Get #Active4Vocations in the City2Surf: 13 August

Join the Parramatta Catholic Foundation #Active4Vocations team. Walk, stroll, jog, or run with our Holy Spirit seminarians, deacons, priests, and community. Scan this  QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations](http://tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations) to register or donate. Funds raised support our Diocese's seminarians to become priests.

### 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 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

### Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

### 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.

### 2023 SACRAMENTS AT ST LUKE'S

#### First Reconciliation

Preparation Dates (6pm – 7pm):

Wednesday August 16

Wednesday August 23

Wednesday August 30

Sacrament received: Wednesdays

September 6 & 13(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.

Reconciliation on the fourth Saturday of the month 4.30-5.15pm

Communion to the sick: call the office to arrange a time.

### CONTACT US

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Deacon Tony Hoban

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