

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**

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’ the Lord said ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

**Second Reading**

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers and sisters. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

**Gospel**

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting

down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

**Gospel Focus – The Kingdom is like...**

Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently uses the figures of speech of simile and metaphor to describe the kingdom. He never directly describes the kingdom. It is always described as being like some situation or person or as if... This figurative use of language means that we have no single clear picture of what the kingdom is like but we do have a multitude of metaphors and descriptions. This style of description adds to the paradoxical nature of the kingdom – it is like many things yet we don’t really know what it is like at all.

**Have you thought? Interpretation**

In today’s passage the gospel writer appears to describe himself: ‘every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’ It is a fantastic description of what it means to be an interpreter of the gospel. To interpret scripture, one must draw on what is old; applying understandings of the text in its original context and its original audience. But one must also draw on what is new; making connections between that original setting and the context in which it is being read today.

- Greg Sunter

**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 Celebrants:**

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (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 11<sup>th</sup> August

**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’**

**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)

**26 AUG** – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15

### 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.*

### 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 Portugal. Our pilgrims will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe, and you are invited to follow along from home. Videos, photos and articles throughout the trip can be seen at: [catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News](http://catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News) or by scanning the QR code.

### Quakers Hill Parish Bingo Night: 5 August

BINGO will be held on 5 August at Mary Immaculate Parish - 6:30pm for 7pm start. BYO Food and Drinks. Hot and cool beverages will be available on the night for a small fee. There will be cash and prizes to be won! RSVP by phone or email by 3 August 9626 3326. Come one come all! [parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au).

### 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.

### 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.

### FaithLIFE – 3 Night Short Course on Synodal Spirituality: Beginning 22 August

Pope Francis has invited the Church to be more 'synodal'. But what does that mean as an expression of Christian spirituality? Sign up for the FaithLIFE 3-night short course on synodal spirituality with Sr Patty Andrew, brought to you by the Mission Enhancement Team (MET). 6:30PM to 8:30PM on three Tuesday: 22 Aug + 29 Aug + 5 Sep. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via <https://pfparra.org.au/faithlife/>

### Castle Hill Parish 'An Evening of Sacred Music': 25 August

St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill, will be hosting an evening of Sacred Music on Friday 25 August at 7:30pm. The event will be a night of performances by choirs, music groups and soloists from around the Diocese, performing a selection of hymns and choral music. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at <https://www.trybooking.com/CJSM>. Entry includes light refreshments during intermission. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 9634 2622 or email [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)

### St Marys Parish Don Bosco Relic Visit: 23 – 27 August

The relic statue of St John Bosco, better known as Don Bosco, will be visiting Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, as part of the celebrations of the centenary of the arrival of the Salesians on Australian soil. There will be opportunities to venerate the relic and celebrate Mass, Adoration and Confessions throughout the week. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9623 1962 or email [secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au](mailto:secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au)

### 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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