

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

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my

salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice. Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, ‘Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.’ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. ‘Give her what she wants,’ they said ‘because she is shouting after us.’ He said in reply, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.’ But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet.

‘Lord,’ she said ‘help me.’ He replied, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the house-dogs.’ She retorted, ‘Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master’s table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.’ And from that moment her daughter was well again.

From the perspective of ... A disciple

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master’s words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us!

Scriptural Context

This passage sits in the middle of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew’s Gospel. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week’s gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman’s great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew’s gospel relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.

- 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)



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 25th August

What time: 7pm-8.30pm

Where: Marketplace St Luke’s

RSVP email: saintlukesyg@gmail.com

Become a Liturgical Minister at St Luke’s

If you would like to serve the St Luke’s community as a Reader or Eucharistic Minister, the next Liturgical Formation Course in the Diocese begins on 4 September. Enrolment forms are available on the Welcome table. RSVP ASAP!

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

*What’s happening at St Luke’s
‘Calendar of Events’*

23 AUG – Session 2 preparation for Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

26 AUG - Reconciliation 4.30-5.15

4 SEP – Liturgical Ministry formation course

8 SEP – Saints in Training Youth Group in the Hub 7-8.30pm

17 SEP – Community morning tea, stay after Mass for a cuppa; 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.*

Nominations open for Papal, Civil and Diocesan Awards

From today until Thursday 7 September 2023, you can nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed to the Catholic Church and society for a Papal Honours Award, Civil Award or Diocesan Award. Visit parracatholic.org/awards. The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

Natural Fertility free webinar: 21 August

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective" will be held on Monday 21st August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST. As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=oddtcreator>

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://pparra.org.au/faithlife/>

MET Marriage Retrouvaille Program

Information Session: 25 August

The Diocese of Parramatta aims to offer the Retrouvaille program for couples who are having difficulties in their marriage. We are looking for married couples who are committed to helping others heal their marriage relationships. You will be trained to facilitate this program. An information evening will be held on 25 August at 7.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Contact Karin on (02) 8838 3460 or register at marriage@parracatholic.org

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 \$5 per person. Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/CJSM>. For more information call 9634 2622 or email 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@inet.net.au

World Day of Migrant and Refugees celebration

You're warmly invited to a family-friendly event with Bishop Vincent and our migrant communities for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees on Saturday 16 September, 2pm – 5.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills. Come hear stories, enjoy free entertainment and activities. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/celebrating-world-day-of-refugees-and-migrants-tickets-675662363317?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Are you interested in bringing the Gospel message to prisoners and their families?

Kairos Prison Ministry is hosting an information session on Saturday 16th September at 2.30pm–4.30pm at Blacktown Uniting Church, 59 Bungarribee Road, Blacktown. Come and hear how you can join other Christians in dramatically changing lives. RSVP to kidillwyniasec@kairos.org.au or phone Yvonne on 0419 284 128

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.

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

For anyone interested in serving as either Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Communion to the Sick and Ministers at the Altar. For more information 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

2023 SACRAMENTS AT ST LUKE'S

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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