

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

Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be

seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers and sisters, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but of humans.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let them renounce themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save their life will lose it; but anyone who loses their life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a person gain if they win the whole world and ruin their life? Or what has anyone to offer in exchange for their life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in

the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to their behaviour.'

Scriptural context. Not quite there...

This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith – his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth. The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them.

Living the Gospel. Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

- 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

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)



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 8th September

What time: 7pm-8.30pm

Where: Marketplace St Luke's

RSVP email: saintlukesyg@gmail.com

HSC SUPERVISION AT ST LUKE'S

Are you interested in part time work supervising the HSC at St Luke's this year (11 Oct – 2 Nov)? To apply contact the parish office on 8840 8521 or email us at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org.

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

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

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

24 SEP – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

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.

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.

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Caring for those who have cared for us



Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out

God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests. Please give to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.

Season of Creation: 1 September – 4 October

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical celebration and this year's theme is, 'Let Justice and Peace Flow'. It starts on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. In his message for this year's World Day of Prayer for Creation, Pope Francis reminds us that the next chapter in the Church's synodal journey will begin at the conclusion of the Season of Creation. He hopes that this synodal journey will foster deeper communion enriched by greater dialogue. To learn more, please contact our Peace, Justice and Ecology team via met@parracatholic.org

Parish of Richmond St Monica's Spring

Fair: 16 September

All are invited to celebrate the St Monica's Spring Fair on Saturday 16 September at 32 Francis Street, Richmond. Enjoy a delightful day with kids and family, featuring an array of entertaining activities. Indulge in exciting games, delicious treats, captivating performances, and more! Mark your calendars for this joyous community event that promises laughter and memories for all. See you there!

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>

Arise Women's Retreat: 16 September

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a day of reflection, inspiration and encounter with Christ at this year's Arise Women's Retreat: 'Arise – Talitha Koum – Little girl, I say ARISE' on Saturday 16 September from 8.30am to 8.30pm. The retreat will include Mass, meditation, talks, praise and worship, creative expression, spiritual direction and healing Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. All meals are included. For bookings and more information, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1078404>

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

MET Natural Fertility: Instruction for Couples

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is for couples wanting to achieve and avoid pregnancy. It is suitable for couples at all stages of life. If you are: preparing for marriage, expecting a baby soon or breastfeeding, looking for an effective, natural option and wanting to cease contraception, or peri menopausal then NFP is for you! For more information contact Catherine at catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org

Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

NATSICC Indigenous Voice Website – One Journey Together

NATSICC and Caritas Australia have launched www.indigenousvoice.church - a website that empowers Catholics to make an informed decision at the 2023 Indigenous Voice to Parliament Referendum. See a collation of statements of Catholic Organisations, resources to assist in discernment and the voices of First Australians and our Catholic Leaders.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

Mandatory Modules 1-3: **Saturday 28 October** at St Canice's Church, Katoomba from 10am-3pm. (Renewal Modules will soon be available on our online training platform.) Register for this face-to-face module at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org. For further information contact Maria Kervin at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

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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