

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

Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. "If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a

question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Gospel Reflection

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

- Greg Sunter



St Luke's Church Building fund

BSB: 067 950

Account: 00004307

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park.

Reference: (Your name)

OFFERING FOR ST LUKE'S

To help support the living costs of the clergy and the operating costs of St Luke's: BSB: 067 950

Account No: 0004026

Account name: St Luke's

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.

We welcome this week as our celebrant:

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Bishop Bob McGuckin (10am & 11.15am)

Carols: 8 December 5.30-7.30pm



Our St Luke's 2023 Christmas Carols will be held on 8

December. It will be a joint event with St Luke's Catholic

College. Sing along to your favourite Carols, grab a sausage sandwich, and say hello to Santa. Once again, we will be offering a raffle with \$1,000 cash as the first prize. If you would like to be a part of the working group, please email us at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org.

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

2 NOV – All Souls Mass 7pm

3 NOV – Saints in Training Youth Group 7-8.30pm

12 NOV – Stage 3 School Mass

17 NOV – Saints in Training Youth Group 7-8.30pm

25 NOV – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

26 NOV – Community morning tea

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.

Positions Vacant:

Communications Manager – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close** 10pm on Wednesday 1 November 2023.

Details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal

Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Table Talk with People Seeking Asylum: 8 November

St Patrick Cathedral Parish, Parramatta, Jesuit Refugees Service and the Diocese of Parramatta are organising a Table Talk event with people seeking asylum on Wednesday 8 November from 7pm to 9pm at the Cathedral Hall. We will hear from people with lived experience, reflect on our own values and see how we can be part of a positive change. To register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/talk-talk-with-people-seeking-asylum>

Bishop Vincent presents Christopher White: 9 November

Vatican correspondent and Pope Francis expert, Christopher White, is coming to the Diocese of Parramatta as part of the 'Bishop Vincent Presents' series. His public lecture "Will our faith have children? Reflections on the health and dynamism of global Catholicism after the October 2023 Synod on Synodality" will be held in Parramatta on Thursday 9 November at Our Lady of Mercy

College, Parramatta from 6pm. Register at <https://parracatholic.org/christopherwhite/>

Kairos Prison Ministry for Women

Weekend: 10 – 12 November

This support group is for women who have family members serving a prison sentence. This is a safe space where women can meet and share with others their challenges. The next weekend is on 10-12 November. If you would like more information, please contact your parish team.

Parramatta Street Feast: 11 November

You are invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, Saturday 11 November 2023. Come and share a meal, company and entertainment with members of our community who are on the margins of society. This free event will be held in a spirit of solidarity and friendship at the Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 10:30AM to 1:30PM. The Street Feast is a collaboration between the Diocese of Parramatta, PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon and St. Mercurious Charity.

Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 11 November

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Hunting for an excuse to catch up with Jesus and friends? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around the Diocese for Mass and fellowship afterwards with new and known friends. The first Mass will be at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Kellyville, on Saturday 11 November for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact youthgroupolor@gmail.com

125th Anniversary Cathedral Organ Concert: 12 November

St Patrick's Cathedral Organists, Choir and Guest Performers will present an array of performances at a Gala Concert to celebrate the 125th anniversary of St Patrick's Cathedral Organ. The Concert will be held on Sunday 12 November from 3pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Tickets can be purchased via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/CLUFN> or at the door. For more information, contact hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Rouse Hill Parish Natural Fertility Talk: 12 November

Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill, are inviting all married (or soon to be married) couples to a talk on natural fertility by guest speaker Dr Catherine Lennon on Sunday 12 November at 1pm in the Parish Hall. The talk is an update on Fertility treatments for infertility and helping couples who need to space or avoid

a pregnancy. To RSVP, and for more information, please email parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au.

Mass and prayers for deceased clergy: 17 November

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to its second annual Mass for our deceased clergy on Friday 17 November at 10.30am at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill, followed by prayers at the gravesites of clergy buried in Pinegrove Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and give your gift of prayer to those whose lives were dedicated to bringing us all closer to Christ.

Diocesan Food Drives

Many vulnerable people in our community rely on the 'food banks' run by Jesuit Refugee Services and the House of Welcome, which operate thanks to donations from community food drives. All parishes are encouraged to run a food drive for those seeking safety in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Find out more information about how you can help at parracatholic.org/fooddrive or emailing james.atanasious@parracatholic.org

Volunteer for the House of Welcome

Volunteers are needed by the House of Welcome to do odd jobs around properties which house refugees and people seeking asylum. If you are a handyman or woman with a few hours you can donate, contact us at m.tupaea@houseofwelcome.com.au.

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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