

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

Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared

throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you. Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel

Matthew 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on people's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done

to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi. 'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers and sisters. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is a lesson on leadership. The gospel writer has Jesus offering a very strong criticism of the religious leadership of his day as exemplified by the scribes and Pharisees. He accuses them of not practising what they preach – a rather familiar criticism often levelled at politicians, teachers and church leaders in our own society today. When the criticism is used today it often implies that if the person fails to practise what they preach then what they have to say carries little weight. But rather than totally rejecting the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus cautions his listeners to take notice of what they have to say – as their teachings were always grounded in scripture and tradition – but not to follow their example of behaviour. Throughout Matthew's gospel we encounter criticisms of the scribes and Pharisees. This example is of the same nature: they were too caught up with rules and obligations and did not approach life with compassion and concern for the individual. The community for whom Matthew's gospel was intended was struggling with being both Jewish and Christian. They were coming to realise that to be followers of Jesus' way they needed to cast aside some of the attitudes and behaviours of their Jewish tradition. That applied particularly to the model of leadership that they had inherited from Jesus: a model of leadership through service, not power and authority. This

gospel passage makes it very clear for that original community as well as ourselves that true leadership is provided through service to others and through humble action. Unlike the Pharisees of Jesus' time, Christian leaders are called to do away with the trappings of power and prestige and, instead, be of service to those whom they would lead.

- 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 celebrants:

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

Deacon Jerome Emmanuel (both Masses)

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

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

3 DEC – Last day for Vinnies donations

8 DEC – Carols 5.30-7.30pm

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.

Carols: 8 December 5.30-8pm



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

We need your help!

The more volunteers we have, the more successful the event will be. The more successful the event is, the more funds go towards our future church building. If you can help us out with bringing food, baking cakes, selling raffle tickets, cooking the BBQ, decorating the Marketplace, or selling fairy floss/popcorn/drinks please email us at marsdenpark@parracatholic.org, call 8840 8521, or talk to us after Mass.

Positions Vacant:

Facilitator – Marriage – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 13 November 2023.**

Youth Coordinator (part-time) - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill – **Applications close Thursday 30 November 2023.**

Details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Celebrating Catholic Unity: Inside the Diocese of Parramatta's Historic First Synod! Our Diocese concluded its first-ever Synod over the weekend of 13 – 15 October 2023. It was a momentous event that brought together 280 faithful from across Western Sydney to discuss the future of the local Church. Experience the historic culmination of our Diocese's inaugural Synod in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PltRCgSPLng>. Want to know more about what's next? Visit parracatholic.org/synod2023 to stay updated.

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/>

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. Merkorious 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.



All food items for donation to the Vinnies Christmas Hampers due by 3rd December.

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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