

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 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man

travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’

Gospel Reflection

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant ‘satisfaction’, the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than ‘Stay awake!’ maybe some of us need to be told, ‘Wake up!’ It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

- 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:

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)

Carols: 8 December 5.30-8pm



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

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.

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

8 DEC – Carols 5.30-8pm

23 DEC – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

Christmas Mass times

24 DEC – 7pm & 11pm

25 DEC – 10am

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.



Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care chaplaincy services

Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas. Please give generously via the QR code or at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. 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 or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>



Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Cards

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and

hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au or scan the QR code.

Our Synod Journey: Diocesan Synod Report Now Available

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from 13-15

October 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

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. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

60th Year of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Commemorative Mass: 4 December

Bishop Vincent invites all to join him in a commemorative Mass to mark the 60th Anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta on Monday 4 December at 7.30pm. Please RSVP for catering purposes to 0460 037 795 or Hannah Portelli hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

Glenbrook Parish Christmas concert: 10 December

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to their annual Christmas concert event on Sunday 10 December at 7.30pm in the parish church. The evening will include choir and musical performances alongside themed readings for Christmas. Suggested donations for entry are \$15 for individuals and \$35 for families. For enquiries, please contact 0421 105 017.

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra St Patrick's Cathedral Concert: 12 December

Reel in the festive season with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Choir on Tuesday 12 December, 7:30PM at St Patrick's Cathedral for their annual Christmas concert, *Noël! Noël!*. Gather your loved ones and join us for this beloved festive tradition, as the Brandenburg perform stunning choral works and Christmas classics, conducted by Artistic Director Paul Dyer.

SPECIAL OFFER: Get four tickets for just \$149! There are less than 200 tickets remaining, so head to brandenburg.com.au or call 1300 782 856 to book your tickets now.

Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta 2024

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2024 Epiphany Pilgrimage (2 - 9 Jan 2024). Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org.

Sydney Summer School of Evangelisation: 7 – 14 January 2024

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville NSW, featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31 October. Register by 30 November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625). More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: summerschool.org.au

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

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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Deacon Tony Hoban

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stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

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