

**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**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people:

'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself,

from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

**Responsorial Psalm**

*If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*

**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

**Gospel**

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his

teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

**Gospel Reflection**

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the

message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

- Greg Sunter



St Luke's Church Building fund

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**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

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**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/>



**Youth Group** 'Saints in Training'

All high school aged students are welcome!

Snacks & drinks will be provided.

**When:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**What time:** 7pm-8.30pm

**Where:** Marketplace St Luke's

RSVP email: [saintlukesvg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesvg@gmail.com)

**We welcome this week as our celebrant:**

**Fr Kevin Redmond (Vigil & 10am)**

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

**4 FEB** – Saints in Training Youth Group returns with 'Games' night 7-8.30pm

**14 FEB** – Ash Wednesday Mass 7pm

**24 FEB** – 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.

### 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 [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or email [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org) to arrange for an enrolment form.

### Parramatta Men's Rosary: 3 February

Witness and pray with us. Men of service, men of worship, men of evangelization. Meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta (front of St Patrick's Cathedral) at 10.30am.

### ACU Memorial Mass and Public Lecture of St Josephine Bakhita: 8 February

Australian Catholic University and the Diocese of Parramatta are hosting a Memorial Mass on the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of South Sudan and victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, on Thursday 8 February at 12.30pm at ACU's St Josephine Bakhita Campus, Blacktown. Following Mass, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will deliver the first *St Josephine Bakhita Public Lecture* on campus. All welcome.

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training

Opportunities for face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, this coming February.

\*Monday 5 February (9.30am – 2.30pm) – Modules 1-3: For those new to Parish Ministry or for those who have not yet completed the initial training, or

\*Monday 12 February (10am – 1.30pm) – Modules 4-5: Renewal Safeguarding

Training is for those in Parish Ministry who completed Cycle 1 Training two years ago.

To register for this training go to: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>  
For more information email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Music for Lent Workshop: 8 February 2024

Musicians and Liturgy Planners are invited to attend an evening exploring Music for Lent on Thursday 8 February 2024 from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To RSVP contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or call 0460 037 795 by 6 February 2024.

### Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 10 February 2024

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 10 February 2024 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVP by 6 February 2024 to [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org)

### Diocesan Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita: 11 February

Join Bishop Vincent for the annual Diocesan Memorial Mass of St Josephine Bakhita, Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan, and Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. It will be held at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Sunday 11 February at 12.30pm, followed by fellowship, food, and community entertainment. All are welcome to attend.

### Bishop Vincent presents a conversation with Monsignor Tomas Halik: 12 February

The Diocese of Parramatta invites you to a conversation with Czech priest and theologian Monsignor Tomas Halik on Monday 12 February at 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Registration is free, but places are strictly limited. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/events/tomashalik/> to register.

### MET FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course: Tuesday Evenings 13, 20, 27 February

Looking to learn more about the Bible? Interested in the theme of women in the Bible through the Gospel of Matthew? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Scripture short course with Dr Debra Snoddy on Tuesday evenings 13, 20 and 27 February! Registration and more dates and details via <https://parracatholic.org/connect/event/s/?series=faithlife> OR get in touch with the team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### Glenbrook Parish Aspects of the Eucharist Talks: 21 and 28 February

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a series of talks exploring the fundamental aspects of the Eucharist with Chris Ohlsen on Wednesday 21 and 28 February at 7.30pm at the parish. Entry is via gold coin donation. To RSVP, please email [glenbrook@parracatholic.org](mailto:glenbrook@parracatholic.org)

### Quakers Hill Parish Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill-Schofields celebrates a Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Church. All are welcome to join. For more information, please contact the parish office on (02) 9626 3326 or [parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au).

Thank you to our major sponsors for the 2023 Carols Fundraiser:



#### 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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