



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**

Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ‘If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man’s skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

‘The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, “Unclean, unclean”. As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.’

**Responsorial Psalm**

*I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

**Gospel**

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: ‘If you want to’ he said ‘you can cure me.’ Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. ‘Of course I want to!’ he said. ‘Be cured!’ And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, ‘Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.’ The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

**Gospel Reflection**

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen’s disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God’s punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus’ ability and good will: ‘if you want to, you can cure me’. Jesus’ reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man’s plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

- 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 welcome this week as our celebrant:**

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

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

**14 FEB** – Ash Wednesday Mass 7pm

**16 FEB** – Stations of the Cross 7pm

**23 FEB** – Stations of the Cross 7pm

**24 FEB** – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

**1 MAR** – Stations of the Cross 7pm

**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.

**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 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. Please register for this training by emailing Maria Kervin at:

[safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of

donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

### **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.

### **Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day: 18 February**

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day on Sunday 18 February from 10am to around 3pm at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. There will be an introduction to Christian Meditation for newcomers with periods of meditation for ongoing meditators, presentations and prayer with the monks. Mass will be celebrated in the afternoon. Morning tea will be provided, but please bring your own picnic lunch. Donations are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Ann Lomas on [atlomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atlomas@bigpond.com) or call 0437 340 250. Accommodation enquiries can be addressed to Fr Michael Kelly on 0455 329 607.

### **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=faihlife> 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)

### **Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 25 February**

Looking for some young adults to worship with? 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 next Mass will be at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes, on Sunday 25 February for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Laura on [laura@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:laura@stbernadette.org.au)

### **Celebrating Holy Week: Formation for Ministers of the Altar: 9 March**

The Office for Worship presents 'Celebrating Holy Week' – a workshop for current Acolytes and Ministers at the Altar presented by Chris Ohlsen. It will be held on Saturday 9 March from 9:30am to 3pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. To register or for more information, call 8838 3456 or contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) by 5 March 2024.



### **Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening: 20 March**

Looking for a way to reflect on your experience of Lent as we enter Holy Week? Interested in praying with the Scripture readings for Holy Week? Register for the Diocesan Lent & Holy Week Scripture Reflection Evening Wednesday 20 March 2024 – 6:30PM to 8:30pm. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### **Give to the Diocesan Food Drive**

6 weeks of Lent – give 6 things to JRS Foodbank!  
Right now, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia is supporting 150 families a week, and the demand for help keeps growing. To help keep everyone fed, we are asking the St Luke's community to donate one item a week during Lent:  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 18 Feb: Basmati rice  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent 25 Feb: Cooking oil  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent 3 Mar: Dried red lentils  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 10 Mar: Dishwashing liquid  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 17 Mar: Laundry detergent  
Palm Sunday 24 Mar: Long life milk

### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2024**

Held at St Luke's Catholic College. Please note the eligibility details and email [marsdenpark@parracatholic.org](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org) for an enrolment form.

#### **First Holy Communion**

(For children who have already been Baptised and made their First Reconciliation in 2023 or earlier). Parents to attend each session. Preparation dates (6pm – 7pm):  
Prep 1 - Wednesday, May 15  
Prep 2 - Wednesday, May 22  
Prep 3 - Wednesday, May 29  
Sacrament received: Saturday, June 1 (5.30pm) and Sunday, June 2 (10am)

#### **First Reconciliation**

(For children who are already Baptised and aged 7 or above). Parents to attend each session. Preparation Dates (6pm – 7pm):  
Prep 1 - Wednesday, August 7  
Prep 2 - Wednesday, August 21  
Prep 3 - Wednesday, August 28  
Sacrament received: TBC but most likely Wednesday, September 4 (6pm to 8pm)

#### **Confirmation**

(For children who are Baptised, have made their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and are in Year 6 or above.) Parents to attend each session except Fri October 20. Preparation Dates:  
Prep 1 - Wed, Sept 18, 6pm – 7pm  
Prep 2 - Wed, October 16, 6pm – 7pm  
Prep 3 - Fri, October 18, 7pm to 8.45pm (\*as part of St Luke's Youth Group)  
Prep 4 - Wed, October 23, 6pm – 7pm.  
Sacrament received: Sunday October 27, 11.15am Mass.

#### **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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