

**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**

Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your

descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.*

**Second Reading**

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**Gospel**

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

**Gospel Reflection**

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding. In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to

repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

- Greg Sunter

**OFFERING TO ST LUKE'S**



Scan the QR code and choose Option 2:

**'For your parish's ministry and maintenance'**

and select from parish list **'MARSDEN PARK – St Luke's Catholic Faith Community'**



St Luke's Church Building fund

BSB: 067 950

Account: 0004307

Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park.

Reference: (Your name)



If you have prayer needs, please visit our website:

<https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>

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

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

(Assisted by Deacon Jerome D'Rozario)

Fr Jonas (10am)

**Youth Group**

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm, meeting in the Hub at St Luke's Catholic College. All high school aged students are welcome!

For details please email:

[saintlukesyg@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesyg@gmail.com)

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

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

**23 FEB** – Saints in Training youth group 7-8.30pm

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

**LENTEN CHALLENGE 2024**

**REFLECT REPENT RESTORE**

**17 Feb:** Pray for those that are alone

**18 Feb:** What are you most grateful for?

**19 Feb:** Pray for those who are in power

**20 Feb:** Pray for the sick

**21 Feb:** Pray for healthcare workers

**22 Feb:** Pray for those that work for justice

**23 Feb:** Fast from sugar

### 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.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

### Palms Australia Mission: Change their lives ... and yours

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. On our website you can see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Enquiries on 9560 5333 or at [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)



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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

### 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)

### St Luke's NRL Tipping Competition

We are excited to announce our very first St Luke's sporting activity, our NRL Footy tipping competition. No matter whether you support a team or not, try your luck at picking the winners each week. Entry is \$50 and \$10 of each fee will go towards our future permanent church building fund. The remainder of the fees will be split 50% to the winner, 30% to 2nd place and 20% to 3rd place. The comp will run for 6 months - from March 3 to Sept 8 (the end of round 27). If you would like to sign up, please fill in your details at the tipping table after Mass or text/call Joe from our fundraising team on 0405 125 095 before the 1st round on the 3rd March to enter. Joe will advise further details to those who sign up.

### Mount Schoenstatt Young Women's

#### Lenten Reflection Day: 25 February

The Mount Schoenstatt Girls and Young Women ministry invite young women to a Lenten Reflection Day on Sunday 25 February from 10.30am to 8.30pm at the Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Cost is \$25 including afternoon tea and dinner. BYO lunch. Register before Thursday 15 February 0493 026 628 or [srrita@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srrita@schoenstatt.org.au)

### Catholic Youth Parramatta 2024 LIFTED

#### Launch: 29 February

LIFTED Launch 2024 is here! Join young people from across our Diocese for an evening of faith, live music, formation, and announcements. Learn about ways you can meet, connect and 'walk with' other young people | West HQ Rooty Hill, 29 February 2024, 7pm to 9:30pm. Register [www.parracatholic.org/liftedlaunch](http://www.parracatholic.org/liftedlaunch)



### 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 at [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### Give to the Diocesan Food Drive

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:

### 6 weeks of Lent – give 6 things to JRS

1<sup>st</sup> Sun of Lent 18 Feb: Basmati rice

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of Lent 25 Feb: Cooking oil

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of Lent 3 Mar: Dried red lentils

4<sup>th</sup> Sun of Lent 10 Mar: Dishwashing liquid

5<sup>th</sup> Sun of Lent 17 Mar: Laundry detergent

Palm Sunday 24 Mar: Long life milk

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2024

#### 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.

### CONTACT US

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