

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 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

God put Abraham to the test.

'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Gospel Reflection

Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that

mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop. Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy.

- 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 Kevin Redmond (10.15am)

(at St Matthew's Parish Windsor)

Youth Group

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 8th March at 7pm, meeting at St Luke's Catholic College. All high school aged students are welcome!

For details please email:

saintlukesyg@gmail.com

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

1 MAR – Stations of the Cross 7pm

3 MAR – St Luke's morning tea

8 MAR – Saints in Training youth group 7-8.30pm

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.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

LENTEN CHALLENGE 2024

REFLECT REPENT RESTORE

24 Feb: Pray for your congregation

25 Feb: Pray for those who have died

26 Feb: How does the Holy Spirit live in me

27 Feb: Pray for clean water

28 Feb: Pray for someone who needs healing

29 Feb: Pray for those struggling with addiction

30 Feb: Fast from political debate

Positions Vacant:

Parish Cook (part-time) - St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta – **Applications close 4 March**

More details at: parracatholic.org/about/jobs/



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.

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



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

Synod 2023 Update: Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The Plan will launch at the Diocesan Gathering on Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod



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**. You can also donate by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Mount Schoenstatt Shrine Time Holy Hour for Youth and Young Adults

The Mount Schoenstatt community invite young and young adults for Holy Hour every fourth Sunday of the month from 7pm to 8pm at the Mt Schoenstatt Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa, followed by a social gathering afterwards. There will be opportunities for praise and worship, prayer, reflection, confession and benediction. For more information, please contact Sr M Rita on 0493 026 628 or srrita@schoenstatt.org.au



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

1st Sun of Lent 18 Feb: Basmati rice

2nd Sun of Lent 25 Feb: Cooking oil

3rd Sun of Lent 3 Mar: Dried red lentils

4th Sun of Lent 10 Mar: Dishwashing liquid

5th 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

Pastoral Director:

Deacon Tony Hoban

Phone:

(02) 8840 8521

Email:

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Website:

stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark

Address:

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

Postal Address:

PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765