

**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**

2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to

infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ

Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace.

Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**Gospel**

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world, all people have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear their actions should be exposed; but the one who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what they do is done in God.'

**Gospel Focus**

The passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, 'so that through him the world might be saved'. It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe 'is already condemned'. God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

- Greg Sunter

**Get updates on St Luke's news and events**

Please scan this QR code and fill in your details. It will only take a minute or so:



**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 Celebrants:**

Fr Kevin Redmond (Vigil)

Fr Jonas Donasco (10am)

**Youth Group**

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm, meeting 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'**

- 15 MAR** – Stations of the Cross 7pm
- 24 MAR** – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm
- 28 MAR** – Holy Thursday Mass 7.00pm
- 29 MAR** – Stations of the Cross 10am
- 29 MAR** – Good Friday 3pm
- 30 MAR** – Easter Vigil 7.00pm
- 31 MAR** – Easter Sunday 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.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

## LENTEN CHALLENGE 2024

### REFLECT REPENT RESTORE

**9 Mar:** Pray for forgiveness

**10 Mar:** Recall a part of this morning's gathering that made your heart swell

**11 Mar:** Pray for those that serve the poor

**12 Mar:** Pray for the youth of St Luke's

**13 Mar:** Pray for the young adults of St Luke's

**14 Mar:** Pray for the Ministers at St Luke's

**15 Mar:** Fast from gossip

### Positions Vacant:

Administration Assistant (part-time) - Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Druitt South and Permanent Diaconate community

– **Applications close 10pm Monday 11 March**

**March**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/about/jobs/](http://parracatholic.org/about/jobs/)

### Free Online Formation on Synodal Spirituality

Dive into 'Synodal Spirituality' with this FREE online short formation course, taught by Sr Patty Andrew OSU. The course offers an exploration of communal discernment, active engagement, and creative faith responses to challenges in the mission of the Church today. Enrol now and take part in Pope Francis's vision for a synodal Church: <https://pfparra.thinkific.com/courses/synodal-spirituality/>

### Filipino Chaplaincy Feast of St Joseph Celebrations: 16 March

The Filipino Chaplaincy of the Diocese of Parramatta invites you to join Holy Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph on Saturday 16 March at 10:30AM at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown. There will be Novena Masses in preparation for the Feast from March 6 to 14 at 7:30PM (except Mar 6 and 13 at 8:00PM) at St Michael's Church, Blacktown South.



## 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)

### Pontifical Holy Land Good Friday Collection: 29 March

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every church to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus. Make your donation this Holy Week via the collection on Good Friday or donate directly via Commissariat of the Holy Land, 47 Victoria St. Waverley NSW 2024 or [holyland@franciscans.org.au](mailto:holyland@franciscans.org.au).



Hands & Feet is a Christian organisation that runs

Christian Disability Camps, with the intention of giving our campers an amazing week away while also showing them Christ's love in a very real way. We run our camps with teams of volunteers from churches around Sydney and NSW. No experience required, just a servant heart. These camps are an amazing opportunity to show love to a group of people that are often ignored and overlooked in society. We run 4 camps each year in NSW. If you have a passion for this ministry and would like to get involved in any of these camps, you can contact our NDIS Coordinator at [Reuben@handsandfeet.com.au](mailto:Reuben@handsandfeet.com.au) or check out the Hands & Feet website.



### You are invited!

Sydney Catholic Singles meet up group. **ALL AGES WELCOME!**

To join the group, search 'Sydney Catholic Singles' on Meetup.com



### 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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