

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new

covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel

John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves their life loses it; anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If someone serves me, they must follow me, wherever I am, my

servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour them. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Gospel Focus

'Today's Gospel invites us to turn our gaze to the crucifix,' Pope Francis once said, adding that it 'is not an ornamental object or clothing accessory.' Rather, it is something more: 'a religious symbol to contemplate and understand.' This is a theme to which the Pope has repeatedly turned. On another occasion he reminded his listeners that the image of the crucified Jesus is something newcomers first encounter: 'In churches, in the homes of Christians, even worn on their persons,' a cross is meant to symbolise the faith of those who display it. That being the case, it is beholden on us as individuals and communities to show what being a follower of Jesus really means. Jesus responded to Philip and Andrew by speaking of the grain that dies to yield a good harvest and of the follower who serves. As Jesus' words suggest, real understanding comes from the witness of service and self-sacrifice.

Whenever people encounter a crucifix or cross, therefore, they should also see signs of servant discipleship. Whether in our churches, homes or daily lives, we are all called to be authentic bearers of the cross. We should strive to offer the world what the Pope characterises as 'the witness of a life that is given in service, a life that takes upon itself the style of God – closeness, compassion and tenderness.' 'The important thing is that the sign be consistent with the Gospel,' says Pope

Francis. Whenever or wherever people display a cross, they should also themselves be living signs of 'love, service, unreserved self-giving.'

- Nick Brodie



Get updates on St Luke's news and events

If you are currently not receiving our weekly email update, please scan this QR code and fill in your details.

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://stlukemarsdenpark.org.au/>

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)



Newly baptised

Please pray for Kayla Bangayan & Ellie Yeh who were newly baptised this week in our faith community, that they will carry on the mission of Jesus throughout their lives. We also pray for their family and Godparents who will support them on their journey.

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

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

Youth Group

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 22nd March at 7pm, meeting at St Luke's Catholic College. All high school aged students are welcome!
For details please email:
saintlukesyg@gmail.com

LENTEN CHALLENGE 2024

REFLECT REPENT RESTORE

- 16 Mar:** Pray for your ancestors
17 Mar: Reflect on what it means for Jesus to be 'King'
18 Mar: Pray to be less judgemental
19 Mar: Fast from news; enjoy the silence
20 Mar: Pray for new members of St Luke's
21 Mar: Reflect on what it means to be content; what is stopping you getting it?
22 Mar: Pray for those with severe illness

Reconciliation times at surrounding Parishes:

St Andrews Parish, Marayong

23 Mar – 9.30am

29 Mar – 11am

30 Mar – 9am

Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill

23 Mar – 4-5pm

St John XXIII Parish, Stanhope Gardens

22 Mar – 2nd Rite 6pm

Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton

23 Mar – 10.30am

27 Mar – 7pm

St John the Evangelist Parish, Riverstone

26 Mar – 9.30am & 6pm

27 Mar – 9.30am

28 Mar – 9.30am

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

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. 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.



MET FaithLIFE Theology Short Course: from 16 April

Considering learning about theology? Wanting to expand your language for expressing your faith? Seeking ways to deepen the way you put your faith into practice? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Theology short course with Dr John Collins on Tuesdays 16 + 23 + 30 April! Registration and more dates and details via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org



Hands & Feet is a Christian organisation that runs

Christian Disability Camps. We run our camps with teams of volunteers from churches around Sydney and NSW. No experience required, just a servant heart. We run 4 camps each year in NSW. If you have a passion for this ministry and would like to get involved, you can contact our NDIS Coordinator at Reuben@handsandfeet.com.au or check out the Hands & Feet website.



Good Friday night walk: 29 March

Join us for the Annual Good Friday Night Walk on 29 March 2024 from 10PM to 6AM the following day. The pilgrimage will commence at St Patrick's Blacktown, include visits to other churches, and conclude at St Patrick's Parramatta. If you'd like to join the St Luke's Catholic Faith Community group on this pilgrimage, please see Aleta after Mass for details or fill in the **Google Form**

at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdhvUKO3cNeTluwE8xDfSDq9jkRYJEdWZG28IVS9Gbbv3T_w/viewform

Find out more about the Good Friday Night Walk: <https://catholicoutlook.org/young-people-testify-to-faith-on-good-friday-night-walk/>

Free Registration (required):
<https://parracatholic.org/events/gfnw/>

You are invited!



Sydney Catholic Singles meetup group. **ALL AGES WELCOME!**
To join the group, search 'Sydney Catholic Singles' on Meetup.com



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:

Give to the Diocesan Food Drive

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