

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

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied

he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel

Mark 14:1 – 15:47

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Gospel Reflection

'Let us ask for the grace to be amazed', reflects Pope Francis. 'A Christian life without amazement', he warns, 'becomes drab and dreary'. Palm Sunday is about so much more than an annual waving of branches.

Whether our faith has become what the Pope styled 'dull from habit', or we find ourselves 'trapped in our regrets', or 'crippled by our disappointments', or easily inclined to 'take refuge in legalisms', the Pope suggests we return our gaze to Jesus' self-sacrifice and allow ourselves to be amazed.

'Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again,' the Pope says, 'for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realising that we are loved.'

When we allow ourselves to embrace this fact our lives will be changed. As the Pope points out, many of those who welcomed Jesus' entry into Jerusalem quickly abandoned him. They were, he suggests, 'following an *idea* of the Messiah rather than *the* Messiah'. Their public demonstrations seem to have proved self-oriented and shallow.

'To admire Jesus is not enough', the Pope declares. 'We have to follow in his footsteps, to let ourselves be challenged by him; to pass from admiration to amazement.' This, he says, enables us to really 'know that we are not alone: God is at our side in every affliction, in every fear; no evil, no sin will ever have the final word.' 'And with the grace of amazement', the Pope adds, 'we come to realise that in welcoming the dismissed and discarded, in drawing close to those ill-treated by life, we are loving Jesus.'

- 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://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:

Bishop Vincent Long (Vigil)

Fr Kevin Medilo (10am)

Youth Group

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 5th April 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

23 Mar: Pray on the thought 'How can I help?'

24 Mar: Apologise to someone you have hurt; make amends

25 Mar: Pay attention to someone you are tempted to brush aside

26 Mar: Pray for the person who brought you in faith

27 Mar: Pray for the teachers at St Luke's Catholic College

28 Mar: Pray for all those who give of their time, talent and treasure at St Luke's

29 Mar: Good Friday: FAST

30 Mar: Think of Mary after Jesus' death

Reconciliation times at surrounding Parishes:

St Andrews Parish, Marayong

29 Mar – 11am

30 Mar – 9am

Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton

27 Mar – 7pm

St John the Evangelist Parish, Riverstone

26 Mar – 9.30am & 6pm

27 Mar – 9.30am

28 Mar – 9.30am

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

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

7 APR – 6th Birthday celebration; Community morning tea



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/1FAIpQLSdhvpUKO3cNeTluwE8xDfSDq9jkRYJEdWZG28lVS9Gbbv3T_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/>

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.

Glenbrook Parish Roof Restoration

Fundraising Concert: 14 April

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to a fundraising concert with the Sydney Male Choir on Sunday 14 April at 2pm in the parish church. Come and enjoy the music and at the same time, support the restoration of the Church roof, with at least \$5 going to St Finbar's Roof Restoration Fund for every ticket sold. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online at www.sydneymalechoir.com or at the door.



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.

2024 Diocese of Parramatta Holy Week Mass Times

Holy Week Mass and Reconciliation Times from parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are available now on our Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org or Catholic Outlook www.catholicoutlook.org Let us embrace the hope, love, and joy that this season brings.

Easter | Autumn 2024 Catholic Outlook Magazine out now!

The Easter | Autumn 2024 edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine is out now! This edition invites us to practice silence, deepen our interior lives and pray for a Gospel change of heart, how our communities celebrate Easter, seminarians preparing to 'go out into the deep', a handy Holy Week Mass Times guide, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from parishes and offices across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains today or read it online via catholicoutlook.org/magazine

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 27 April at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains, for Modules 4 and 5. More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training> For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org



You are invited!

Sydney Catholic Singles meetup 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. If you haven't brought in your donations yet, there is still time. The items asked for are: Basmati rice, Cooking oil, Dried red lentils, Dishwashing liquid, Laundry detergent, and 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

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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