

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

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch

that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Gospel Reflection

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It is an act of love; not an act of economic rationalism. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing. If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviours can physically take away our ability to perform at our best.

I am reminded of the old *Karate Kid* movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

- Greg Sunter

AN ALTERNATIVE TO OUR TAP DEVICES



You can now avoid the queues at our tap devices and contribute to our St Luke's collections by scanning this QR

code. 30% of funds support the living costs of our clergy and 70% goes to the operating costs of St Luke's.



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 Jonas Donasco (Vigil & 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 centre of constant missionary outreach. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

5 MAY – New St Luke's member event

12 MAY – Mother's Day

15 MAY – Preparation begins for First Holy Communion (in the Hub 6-7pm)

19 MAY – Pentecost morning tea

25 MAY - Reconciliation

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.

Natural Fertility Sympto-Thermal Method Instruction Session: 30 April

The most important symptom alerting women to ovulation is used in all methods of Natural Family Planning. The Sympto-Thermal Method includes measuring your basal body temperature, which also confirms ovulation! This session will be held on Tuesday 30 April from 7.15pm to 8.15pm via Zoom. To book your place or for further information, contact Catherine on 0400 427 605 or email catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org



Synod 2023 Update: Local Think Tank Sessions from May-June

Parishes and other local faith communities across the diocese are holding local Think Tank Sessions, giving local leaders and anyone involved in ministry to offer feedback on the Draft of the Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church, and contribute ideas for the practical implementation of our Diocesan Plan. Contact the parish office to inquire about our local Think Tank session, and visit parracatholic.org/synod for more.

Voluntary Assisted Dying healthcare workshop: 4 May

The Diocese of Parramatta is organising a free healthcare workshop to explore the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Voluntary Assisted Dying statement: "To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope" on Saturday 4 May at the St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Lunch will be provided. To register at met@parracatholic.org. For enquires, please contact Deacon Michael Tan on michael.tan@parracatholic.org

Diocesan Pentecost Scripture Reflection Evening: 15 May

What does the Holy Spirit look like in your life? How can Scripture stretch our imagination when comes to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit? Register for the Diocesan Pentecost Scripture Reflection Evening with Dr Michele Connolly rsj on Wednesday 15 May 2024 – 6:30PM to 8:30pm. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org



SCAN ME

Pentecost Eve Anointing: 18 May

Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW in celebrating Pentecost Eve "Anointing" on Saturday 18th May at

Servants of Jesus Centre 15 Park Road Seven Hills for an afternoon of Praise & Worship and Prayer Ministry from 4-7pm. Booking is essential, register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPMXQ?qr=true>

Peace Justice Ecology Table Talk "Laudato Si' Week – Seeds of Hope": 20 May

You are invited to an engaging conversation about caring for God's creation: Hear and discuss inspiring stories from lived experience and play a role in creating positive change in the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. Join this Diocesan Table Talk on Monday 20 May, 6pm – 8:30pm, St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook. Light dinner will be provided on arrival. Register by 12 May to find out more at tinyurl.com/laudatosi-table-talk



Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminar

Support our seminarians to "go out into the deep" and serve? Your generosity and prayers will help our future priests cast their nets wide to nurture faith and meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Caritas Australia Sudan Crisis Appeal



Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan a year ago, 25 million people now need humanitarian assistance and support. Caritas partners in Sudan have distributed food, water and hygiene services and gender-based violence protection. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Sudan Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/sudan or phone 1800 024 413.

Adult Faith Formation opportunities 2024

Looking to learn more about the Bible, spirituality, theology, or practical skills for ministry? View a copy of the 2024 adult faith formation calendar (link: <https://shorturl.at/grLV3>) OR get in touch with the team to learn about more formation opportunities via met@parracatholic.org



BLOCK ROSARY

Welcome the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to your home and pray the Holy Rosary every day for your intentions and the intentions of our community and the Holy Father. Bring home the statue after the Sunday 10am mass and return 10 minutes before the Saturday 5:30pm mass. Register your interest on the roster next to the tap device.

St Luke's new community member morning tea: 5 May

After the 10am Mass we will have a new community member event in the Hub. It will run until 12 noon and morning tea will be provided. We just need you to register to attend via this link: <https://forms.gle/HPFJhvPJmgYqEScF8>.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2024 First Holy Communion

(For children who have 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 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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