

**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 4:32-35  
The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for

his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.*

**Second Reading**

1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

**Gospel**

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.' 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the

Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**Gospel Reflection**

'In reality,' Pope Francis points out, 'Thomas is not the only one who struggles to believe. In fact,' the Pope adds, 'he represents all of us a little bit.' But Thomas does not only represent us with his explicitly articulated doubt. Rather, Thomas highlights our tendency to walk away. Thomas had absented himself from the community. Returning, he seems a touch transactional: Show me the proof, then I'll commit! As Pope Francis highlights, Jesus answers Thomas' doubt 'in front of everyone, in the community.' It was, the Pope suggests, as if Jesus was telling Thomas that 'if you want to meet me, do not search far away; remain in our community, with the others, and don't go away. Pray with them. Break bread with them.' Be open to encounter, not closed to possibilities. This, evidently, is a lesson for us too. Every Christian generation is called to find the Risen Christ together. We belong with each

other, with Christ forming a mystical unity out of our diversity. In this, the story of Thomas has another lesson for the Church. We Christians are called to be a welcoming people. 'Let us ask ourselves,' the Pope suggests, 'if in the name of Jesus' wounds, we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy but welcoming everyone.' After all, despite his attitude Thomas was still included and welcomed by the community whose testimony he doubted. Even more pointedly, Our Lord opens his exchange with the doubter with some clearly welcoming words: 'Peace be with you.'

- 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)

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

**19 APR** – Saints in Training Youth

Group meet 7-8.30pm

**27 APR** - Reconciliation

## 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.

## Youth Group

The next 'Saints in Training' gathering will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 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)

## 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, plus so much more. Pick up your free copy from the Welcome Table after Mass today or read it online via [catholicoutlook.org/magazine](http://catholicoutlook.org/magazine)

## NEW Diocesan website launched

The new [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org) website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

## Free Online Formation on Synodal Spirituality

Dive into 'Synodal Spirituality' with this FREE online short formation course, taught by Sr Patty Andrew OSU. Part of the FaithLIFE series hosted by the Mission Enhancement Team, 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/>

## 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 \$5 going to St Finbar's Roof Restoration Fund for every ticket sold. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at the door or online at [www.sydneymalechoir.com](http://www.sydneymalechoir.com)



### 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](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### Youth Mass 'Round the Diocese: 21 April

Looking for some young adults to worship with? Wondering what goes on around our Diocese? Mass 'Round the Diocese' is just that! Our young people are visiting different churches around for Mass and fellowship. The next Mass will be at The Good Shepherd Parish, Plumpton, on Sunday 21 April for 6pm Mass. For more information, please contact Sr Christine Ramada CSFN on [csfn.cristina@gmail.com](mailto:csfn.cristina@gmail.com)

### 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. 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](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Adult Faith Formation opportunities in 2024

Preparing for marriage or know couples who are? Looking to learn more about the Bible, spirituality, theology or practical skills for ministry? Searching for encouragement and growth by listening to life & faith stories?

View and share 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](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

## 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.



### You are invited!

Sydney Catholic Singles meetup group. **ALL AGES WELCOME!**

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

### 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](mailto:marsdenpark@parracatholic.org)

**Website:**

[stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au](http://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark](http://www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark)

**Address:**

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

**Postal Address:**

PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765