



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 1:1-11  
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and

taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. ‘It is,’ he had said, ‘what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’

Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the

strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**Gospel**

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, ‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.’

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

**Gospel Reflection**

Pope Francis encourages us to contemplate two aspects of the Ascension. ‘On the one hand it directs our gaze towards heaven,’ he says. ‘On the other, it reminds us of the mission of the Church.’

The Pope points out that these two aspects are interconnected. In this feast we do not remember Jesus’ bodily departure so much as celebrate his continuing presence in the world through the Christian community.

The Pope suggests that ‘the Ascension exhorts us to lift our gaze toward heaven, in order to return it immediately to the earth, to implement the tasks that the Risen Lord entrusts to us.’ As today’s Gospel declares, Jesus is in heaven. Yet, by ‘working with’ his disciples, he is also still present in the world.

In a particular way in his encyclical *Laudato Si’* Pope Francis draws out the importance

for Christians of proclaiming ‘the Good News to all creation’. Picking up scriptural teaching, he highlights how ‘all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ’ and reminds us that the Eucharist should motivate us ‘to be stewards of all creation.’ People of the Ascension, therefore, do not just tell other people about Jesus. Rather, People of the Ascension, as the Pope puts it, ‘seek Christ along the paths of our time’. We are called to serve the poor and the needy and the world in which they live. We are called to become ‘visible signs of hope’ for the whole of creation.

- Nick Brodie

**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)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

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

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

**17 MAY** – Saints in Training Youth Group 7-8.30pm in the Hub

**19 MAY** – Pentecost morning tea

**25 MAY** - 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 centre of constant missionary outreach.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

## 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.

## 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. For more info visit [parracatholic.org/synod](http://parracatholic.org/synod)

## Celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week: Seeds of Hope (16-24 May)

Are you ready to sow "Seeds of Hope"? Join the Catholic Church around Australia and worldwide in celebrating *Laudato Si'* Week: 16 to 24 May 2024. This annual commemoration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* encourages us to care more deeply for God's creation. You can find useful resources at [linktr.ee/met.pje](http://linktr.ee/met.pje)

## St Patrick's Cathedral Mozart Concert: 17 May

Let the full force of River City Voices carry you through Mozart's Requiem in D Minor – a testament of power, faith, awe and hope as the choir joins for the first time with the dynamic young Western Sydney Philharmonic at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, on Friday 17 May from 7.30pm. Tickets are \$60 for general admission and \$45 for concessions. FortTicket please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/mozart-s-requiem/tickets>

## Holy Hour for Vocations: 17 May

Please join us across the Diocese to pray for more vocations to the priesthood. Join us at St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood with Fr Chris del Rosario, on Friday 17 May from 7pm. If you are interested in becoming a priest or would like more information, please contact our Director for Priestly Vocations, Fr Galbert Albino on (02) 4773

4321, 0450 821 812 or email

[galbert.albino@parracatholic.org](mailto:galbert.albino@parracatholic.org)

## Pentecost Eve Anointing: 18 May

Please join the Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW in celebrating Pentecost Eve "Anointing" on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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>

## Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day: 19 May

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day on Sunday 19 May from 10am - 3pm at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. There will be an introduction to Christian Meditation for newcomers with periods of meditation for ongoing meditators, presentations and prayer with the monks. Mass will be celebrated in the afternoon. Morning tea will be provided, but please bring your own picnic lunch. Donations are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Ann Lomas on [atlomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atlomas@bigpond.com) or call 0437 340 250.

## 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 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](http://tinyurl.com/laudatosi-table-talk)

## Expression of Interest: Ministry to the Sick in Hospitals

Are you interested in bringing Communion to the Sick in the Hospitals of the Diocese? You will receive formation and information necessary for this ministry. Note you will not be required to do this every week but will be placed on a roster. For more information, please contact [bernard.ellis@catholicarewsbm.org.au](mailto:bernard.ellis@catholicarewsbm.org.au) by 15 June 2024.

## 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. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/sudan](http://www.caritas.org.au/sudan) or phone 1800 024 413.



## 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.

## 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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