

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 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

As Peter reached the house, Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

Gospel Reflection

Jesus' command to 'love one another' is given twice in this short passage. As such, it needs to be taken seriously and become the guiding principle in our daily lives. But, as Pope Francis once said, expressing Christian love means going beyond 'words, words, words'. 'First and foremost,' the Pope points out, 'it is important to realise that Christ's love is not a superficial feeling.' In this Gospel passage Jesus was not telling his disciples to be unflappably polite or overtly nice to each other. This was not a message about social conventions. Jesus is concerned with our attitude toward others, and those actions that flow from it. 'Love,' as the Pope points out, 'is fulfilled in everyday life, in attitudes, in deeds.' As the Pope has repeatedly stressed, loving another person often requires us to challenge our own attitudes. We are called to love everyone, with openness to, as the Pope puts it, 'however they may be and whatever their situation.' While sometimes hard, this is our Christian duty: We are called to love in response to being loved. Which means it is not our place to judge or put conditions on the love we receive and share. 'To love as the Lord loves us,' the Pope says, 'means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be.'

- 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 Celebrant:
Fr Joseph Nguyen (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'

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.

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. Contact the parish office to inquire about our local Think Tank session and visit parracatholic.org/synod for more information.

Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald Public Lecture: 8 May

The Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and the Diocese of Parramatta present a public lecture by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald, former head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue entitled: "Interreligious Dialogue in our Day: 60 Years after *Nostra Aetate*" on Wednesday 8 May at 6pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. To register visit parracatholic.org/cardinalfitzgerald

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

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

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>

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 to around 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 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

Thank you for Supporting our Holy Spirit Seminarians

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and our Holy Spirit Seminarians thank you for your generous support in the formation of our future priests. The monies raised will support our seminarians to deepen their relationship with God and commit more fully to their spiritual calling, so they may serve our faith community.

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 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.



Newly baptised

Please pray for Imogen & Addison Collier 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.

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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