

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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

Moses said to the people:

'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel

Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general,

follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Gospel Reflection

'You put aside the commandment of God,' warned Jesus, 'to cling to human traditions.' One of the sharpest lines in the Gospel, this is a watchword for every Christian generation.

'In today's passage,' Pope Francis says, 'Jesus addresses an important topic for all of us believers: the authenticity of our obedience to the Word of God, against any worldly contamination or legalistic formalism.'

As the Pope suggests, 'those challenging him seek to strike at the reliability and authority of Jesus as Teacher.' The religious leaders who questioned Jesus on technical points of ritual had deluded themselves about what was essential.

The Pope points out that 'Jesus wants to rouse the scribes and Pharisees from the error they have fallen into.' Christ's sharp words are intended to turn people from

'distorting God's will, neglecting his commandments in order to observe human traditions.'

'Today too,' the Pope reminds us, 'the Lord invites us to avoid the danger of giving more importance to form than to substance. He calls us to recognise, ever anew, what is the true core of the experience of faith, that is, love of God and love of neighbour.'

- Nick Brodie



St Luke's Church Building fund

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If you have prayer needs, please visit our website:

<https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>

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.

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'*

4 SEP – Children receive their *First Reconciliation*

7/8 SEP – Weekend Food Stall

15 SEP – Community morning tea

18 SEP – Confirmation prep session 1, 6pm in the Hub

21 SEP – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

22 SEP – Yr 6/HSC Mass



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.

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

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal supporting our retired priests



This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have

dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code.

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) would like to thank the St Luke's community for their support of the raffle ticket sale last week. All proceeds directly support their free legal clinic to the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of Western Sydney. Tickets will be drawn on 13 October 2024 at 11:00am St Anthony's Church Hall, 27 Aurelia St, Toongabbie. For winners, see TLC website: www.tlc.asn.au

St Phoebe Webinar 2024: 3 September
Australian Catholics Exploring the Diaconate, supported by Catholic Religious Australia invite you to the 2024 St Phoebe webinar "Where are St Phoebe's successors today?" on Tuesday 3 September at 7.30pm AEST. Join Geraldine Doogue AO, Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO and Dr Sandie Cornish to reflect on synodality and access for women to the diaconate. To register, please visit www.liturgyonthemargins.org/events

The FaithFeed: 6 September



Looking for great conversations + live atmosphere + storytelling from those in their 20s, 30s 40s?

Sign up for The FaithFeed 6 Sep 2024. Doors open 7PM w/ live music for 7:30PM start. Downstairs @ Bishop Bede Heather Centre: 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown NSW 2148. RSVP via QR or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

Mount Druitt South Parish Fete: 15 September

The Sacred Heart Parish South Mount Druitt fete will be held on Sunday 15 September at Sacred Heart Primary School, Mt Druitt, from 10am to 3pm. Activities include a While Elephant stall, jumping castle, chocolate wheel and showbags. For more information call 9832 3896.

Holy Hour for Vocations: 20 September

Join us to pray for more vocations to the priesthood at Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill-Schofields on Friday 20 September 7pm to 8pm. Deacon Menard Gaspi will be leading adoration and giving a short talk about vocations to the priesthood. Confessions will be heard during Adoration. Join us afterwards for refreshments. For more info call 9626 3326 or email parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au



Instagramce Teens Retreat: 28 Sep-1 Oct

Jesus Youth Ministry NSW presents this three day retreat for teenagers. It will be held at The Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, 347 Grose Wold Rd, Grose Vale. It will be led by Fr Bony Abraham and Mr Cyril Abraham. Cost is \$350pp. For further information call Dilson on 0470398578 or scan the QR code.



Winbourne The Aramaic Lord's Prayer Reflection Day: 28 September

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day on 'The Aramaic Lord's Prayer' on Saturday 28 September from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Returning to what Jesus actually said is a truly enlightening and prayerful experience. Cost is \$15 per person. For more info call 4773 55551 or email info@winbourne.org

BLOCK ROSARY

Take the statue home after the Sunday 10am Mass and return before the Saturday 5:30pm Mass. Register your interest on the roster at the welcome table.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2024

Confirmation

(For children who are in Year 6 or above.)
Parents to attend each session except Fri October 18. 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.

Thank you to our **Dinner Dance 2024 Major Sponsors:**



Services We Offer

- MyAgedCare & NDIS Application Assistance
- Respite Care Services Short And Medium Term Accommodation
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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm
Sunday 10.00am

Baptisms available every second Sunday after Mass. Apply via email

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.30-5.15pm once a month

CONTACT US

Pastoral Director:

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