

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**

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her

seven pillars, she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table. She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city's heights: 'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.' To the fool she says, 'Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared! Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.'

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel**

John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

**Gospel Reflection**

'The Eucharist', Pope Francis famously said, 'is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' Reflecting on today's Gospel passage, the Pope encourages us to avoid becoming 'arbiters of grace'. Rather, he says, we should be 'its facilitators'. As the Pope points out, Jesus gives us the Eucharist 'with a specific purpose: that we may become one with him.' 'The Eucharist is Jesus himself who gives himself entirely to us', the Pope reminds us, which helps us to become a living 'gift to God and to our brothers and sisters.' In one sense, we do this individually. Being nourished by the Eucharist, the Pope explains, 'means entering into harmony with the heart of Christ, assimilating his choices, his thoughts, his behaviour.' Each of us therefore seeks to become what we consume. But we do not do so alone. Communion is a celebration of the Body of Christ – the Church – which means we are being transformed together as the pilgrim People of God. Communion, the Pope says, 'means entering into a dynamism of love and becoming people of peace, people of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of sharing in solidarity.' What this all means is that we should approach the Eucharist with openness to being changed, individually and collectively, into the Bread of Life for all.

- Nick Brodie



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

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**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*

**We welcome this week as our Celebrants:**

Fr Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)



**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.

**Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church**

On Saturday 10 August, the Diocese of Parramatta launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church. Our pastoral plan represents the culmination of our Synod journey, where we have come together to listen, discern, and envision a path forward for our diocese over the past 16 months. To download a copy of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, visit [parracatholic.org/synodality](http://parracatholic.org/synodality).

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

**24 AUG** - Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

**24&25 AUG** – Weekend Food Stall

**1 SEP** – Father's Day

**22 SEP** – Yr 6/HSC Mass

**21 SEP** – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

## ACBC 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement Launch: 20 August

All are warmly invited to attend the official launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, 'Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World' on Tuesday 20 August from 10am to 12pm in St Paul's Catholic College Sports Hall, Greystanes. RSVP via: <https://forms.office.com/r/1Wd96tbp0>

## Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 21 August

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Wednesday 21 August at Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill-Schofields, for Modules 4-5. Register directly for this training by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

## Toongabbie Legal Centre: 24&25 August

Toongabbie Legal Centre (TLC) volunteers will be selling raffle tickets next weekend after Mass, along with some merchandise. All proceeds will directly support their free legal clinic provided for over 16 years to disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable people of Western Sydney. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 for a book of 10 tickets. Prizes include 5 days accommodation in Tasmania with 5 x \$50 Restaurant Food vouchers plus \$300.00 toward airfare\*, 1 week accommodation in Cairns plus \$300.00 toward airfare\*, Jabra GN – Evolve 2 75 speaker phone, Fitbit – Smartwatch, Samsung Tablet.

## Sisters of Faith Young Women's Retreat: 31 August

To celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week, young women aged 18-35 are invited to a retreat day on Saturday 31 August from 10am to 3pm at the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth community, 116-132 Quakers Road, Marayong. Meet with sisters from nine different congregations for a day of inspiring talks, Q&A, Eucharist, Holy Hour and great food. To register, please contact Sr Christine Ramada CSFN on [vocationscsfn@gmail.com](mailto:vocationscsfn@gmail.com) or 0426 092 699.

## Diocesan Season of Creation Mass: 1 September

The Diocese of Parramatta's Laudato Si' Action Team and Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath invite you to Mass with Bishop Vincent Long to launch the Season of Creation 2024 (1 September – 4 October) on Sunday 1 September at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath, at 9.30am. Morning tea will be served after Mass. Let us join in praise and celebrate the gifts and wonders that God bestows on us.

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

## Liturgical Formation Course: 9 September

The next Liturgical Formation course for those interested in serving in the parish as a Liturgical Minister (Reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Minister to the Sick and Dying or a Minister at the Altar) will start on 9 September. Application forms available at the Welcome Table or contact [lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org](mailto:lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org) or 0460 037 795 to enrol.



## Instagrace 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.



## 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:**



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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

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