

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

Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel

John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Gospel Reflection

Why did the crowd reject Jesus? They followed him! He fed them! And then they complain and leave. What was that about? In short, people were scandalised by what Jesus said. They thought differently than Jesus about his mission. They sought earthly triumph over spiritual truth. An important lesson for us, Pope Francis says, is that 'we must not pursue God in dreams and in images of grandeur and power.' Rather, as the Pope explains, God 'must be recognised in the humanity of Jesus and, as a consequence, in that of the brothers and sisters we meet on the path of life.' This is a hard teaching for many to accept, even among those within the Church. God, the Pope reiterates, 'asks us to seek him not outside of life and history, but in relationship with Christ and with our brothers and sisters. 'Seeking him in life,' the Pope adds, 'in history, in our daily life ... is the road to encounter with God: the relationship with Christ and our brothers and sisters.' Therefore, with Peter, and his successor Pope Francis, 'we ask for the grace to let ourselves be provoked and converted.' To whom shall we turn? To our brothers and sisters in need. We need to be

open to being Christ to them, for they may well be Christ for us.

- Nick Brodie



St Luke's Church Building fund

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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 Celebrant:

Fr Jonas Donasco (Vigil & 10am)

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

1 SEP – Father's Day

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

22 SEP – Yr 6/HSC Mass

21 SEP – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm



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.

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 or 0426 092 699.

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.

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

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

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 or 0460 037 795 to enrol.

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, contact the parish office on (02) 9832 3896.



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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