

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

Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a

helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

Responsorial Psalm

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his children into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers and sisters.

Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He

answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Gospel Reflection

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends. When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy – how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus

asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

- Greg Sunter



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/>

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 Celebrant:

Fr Joseph Nguyen (Vigil & 10am)

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

12&13 OCT – Weekend food stall

16 OCT – Confirmation prep session 2 at 6pm in The Hub

18 OCT – Confirmation prep session 3

20 OCT – St Luke's Feast Day celebrations

26 OCT – Reconciliation 4.30-5.15pm

27 OCT – Confirmation Mass

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



AN ALTERNATIVE TO OUR TAP DEVICES

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.

Positions Vacant:

– Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 12 October**

Finance Administrator – Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 18 October.**

For more details go to parracatholic.org/about/jobs/

From the Pastoral Plan 2024-2028: Behold, I Am With You Always

"Our journey has only just begun. As we move forward, we endeavour to institutionalise best practice in communal discernment, decision making and governance, which would enhance the authority of the ordained and the rightful participation of the faithful..." – Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv. Read more at parracatholic.org/synodality.

Will Wonders Never Cease. What Will Be Your Legacy?

A gift in your Will is an enduring way to give thanks to God and share your blessings beyond your lifetime. During Include A Charity Week, we invite you to consider a gift in your Will to our parish or a Catholic ministry in our Diocese. Legacy gifts advance Christian works of faith, hope, and charity for future generations. For information on remembering our Church in your Will: parracatholic.org/giftsinWills



Catholic Schools Bishop Manning Support Fund

Would you like your child to receive a Catholic education

but are worried that your family cannot afford it? Please consider applying for a bursary that will cover the school fees, the

cost of uniforms and equipment for primary or secondary school students for up to four years of enrolment. The fund is a Diocesan charity that seeks to ensure all families who want a Catholic education for their child can receive one. **Applications close 18 October.** Visit <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/affordable-education/bishop-manning-support-fund>.

St Marys/St Clair Parishes menALIVE Retreat Weekend: 12 – 13 October

The Men's ministry groups of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys and Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair-Erskine Park, invite men of all ages to attend the upcoming menALIVE weekend on 12-13 October at the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall, St Marys. The weekend will feature talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion, and space to reflect. Cost is \$50. To register, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1265196>. For enquiries, please contact Steve Buhagiar (St Marys) on 0415 600 290 or Vasco Gil (St Clair) 0414 396 643.

Young Adults Faith Formation: 13 October

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on Sunday 13 October at The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is Christian Stephens who will talk about and lead discussion on "Is Evolution Compatible with Faith?" All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Mark on 0477 004 678.

Holy Hour for Vocations: 18 October

Please join us across the Diocese to pray for more vocations to the priesthood. Join us at St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill on Friday 18 October from 6pm to 7pm with Fr Galbert Albino. Holy Hour will be followed by Mass. 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

Winbourne The Spirituality of *The Lord of the Rings* Reflection Day: 19 October

The Winbourne Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, is holding a reflection day on 'The Spirituality of *The Lord of the Rings*' on Saturday 19 October from 9.30am to 3pm. JRR Tolkien's deep Catholic spirituality is evident throughout the trilogy, although neither God nor Church are mentioned. Cost is \$30 per person. BYO lunch. Call 4773 5555 or email info@winbourne.org

Mt Schoenstatt Foundation Day and Crowning Jubilee: 20 October

Join us as we celebrate Mt Schoenstatt's Foundation Day and Crowning Golden Jubilee on Sunday 20 October. The family festival will begin at 10.15am, with Mass celebrated at 11am. There will be BBQ, food stalls, jumping castle, face painting and more. For more information go to <https://www.facebook.com/MtSchoenstattMulgoa/>

Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass: 27 October

The annual Diocese of Parramatta Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday 27 October at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Solemn Mass, followed by a light lunch at the Cathedral Hall. RSVP by going to parracatholic.org/weddingmass or phone 0488 000 211 by 20 October. Family and friends welcome.



St Luke's Feast Day Celebration: 20 October

Join us for a celebration of St Luke, beginning with a procession and Mass at 10am, recognition of all our ministry volunteers, a blessing of all doctors, nurses, artists and writers, a talent fest, family fun, and lunch. (Please bring a plate of food from your culture to share with the community!)

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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