

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 - Zephaniah

3:14-18 Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm - Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading -Philippians 4:4-7 I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation - Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with

water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Family Connection...

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath. © 2024 Loyola Press. All rights reserved.



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 Andrew Hennes (Vigil)

Fr Joseph Nguyen (10am)

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.

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.



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.



Thanksgiving Mass for Deacon Tony and Annette.

On Sunday, 29th December, at 10.00 am, Bishop Vincent will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for Deacon Tony and Annette, honouring their tremendous contribution and dedication as the founding pastoral leaders of our faith community. We invite everyone to stay after Mass that day to celebrate and offer our well wishes and appreciation before they leave our faith community.

Thank You for Supporting our Catholic Care's Houses to Homes.

Fr Fernando Montano, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains thank you for your generous support of homeless mothers and children. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal has raised over \$X (parish administrator to provide), ensuring Catholic Care can continue to provide homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



Christmas Mass Times around the Diocese

There are many ways to celebrate the Christmas Season across the Diocese. At parracatholic.org you can find Christmas and New Year Mass times, Reconciliation and Adoration Near Me, and Christmas Carols and Nativity plays. Go to: parracatholic.org/connect/find-a-mass

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

Faith Enrichment Role Vacancy – Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person for a Faith Enrichment role, working 16 hours per week onsite. Key responsibilities include:

- Facilitating and resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments and faith.
- Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries.

- Assisting in opportunities for faith inquiry and parishioners' spiritual enrichment
- Sharing relevant administrative and technical tasks with the parish team.

For more information and details on how to apply, please contact: parishoffice@olqp.org.au.

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2025

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in 2025 in Blacktown and Penrith. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. To enrol and for more information, the parish office. Registrations close 28th January, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.



Christmas Gifts from Palms!

Are you looking to give something really special this year? Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you! Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here! Just scan the QR or go to palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop



Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta: 2-9 January 2025

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrimage. Enjoy 7 days of bushwalking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

Water is used in the sacrament of Baptism as a symbol of life and purity. Below there are clues to six hidden words that are all symbols used in Baptism and Mass.



G F A Y I H I Q K
F T M W J O Q G W
D G P V Z Z U F I
Z G W A T E R I N
Z G X P K F T R E
Q E S L U Q H E N
Q D K C R O S S X
Q A Q K U G H M B
N C A N D L E B J
B H B R E A D D Q



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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Christmas & New Year's Mass Times

DEC 24th – 7.00pm (Family Mass) & 11.00pm (International Mass).

DEC 25th – 10.00am

JAN 1st '25 – 9.00am