

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.”



Christmas Eve

First Reading - Isaiah 9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation - Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 2:1-14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David’s House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, ‘Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to people who enjoy his favour.’



Christmas Day

First Reading - Isaiah 52:7-10
How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, Your God is king!’ Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation - Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

Gospel - John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of all, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.



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 for our as our Celebrants for our Christmas Masses:

Fr Kevin Redmond (7pm & 11pm Mass)

Fr Dado Haber (10am Mass)

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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.

Thanksgiving Mass for Deacon Tony and Annette.

Next 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.

Bishop Vincent's 2024 Christmas Message

Dear sisters and brothers,

St John, the evangelist, in one simple sentence describes the deepest meaning of Christmas: "God so loved the world that God gave his only Son."



That catches the heart of the story. It is because God loves the world, and loves human beings, that God did this. If we think about that over and over, then we discover something about God, and a great deal about this world and about human beings. Imagine. Christmas expresses how much God loves the world!

It's not God loving us "from a distance." It's God loving us and becoming part of this

whole cosmos, and because of that, everything is different.

Not only did God visit us. God became part of the human family, and God is still part of the human family, and God will be part of the human family forever.

At the birth of Christ, the manger was full – he was lying in a manger as a baby boy. At the resurrection of Christ, the tomb was empty. It's not as though human nature was a costume God wore, and when he was finished with it, he left it behind and went back to being God. Christ became one of us, and when he rose from the dead his human body was still with him. That's why the tomb was empty. He still stayed one of us and is still part of our family today. The child who was in that manger lives on as a human being, one of us, today. That's what we celebrate at Christmas.

Yet, very often in these tumultuous and violent times – with war and chaos breaking out everywhere - from the horrors and destruction in the Middle East and Ukraine to the floods and frightening climate change events – it can be tempting for us to become despondent.

But take heart from the words of the angel to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."

There is a movement within us all, within the human race, toward goodness, toward fulfillment. And it can't be taken away, for the Word became flesh and dwells among us. This is what we celebrate on this holy night.

God's greatest revelation is not through power, majesty, wealth and splendour. Rather, he made himself the poorest, the most vulnerable and despised of all. The birth of Jesus signals God's alignment with those who are at the edges of society. This Christmas, as we contemplate the Christ child in the manger, let us commit ourselves to pray and work for justice in all its manifestations so that God's reign will come in our world.

May the Christ child bless you and your families with a peaceful and holy Christmas!

Yours fraternally in Christ,

+ *Thyranlong*

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen
OFM Conv STL DD
Bishop of Parramatta

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.



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

Baptisms available every second

Sunday after Mass. Apply via email

Reconciliation: 4.30-5.15pm once a month

CONTACT US

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New Year's Mass Times

JAN 1st '25 – 9.00am

