



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 - Baruch 5:1-9**

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, ‘Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness’. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.’

**Responsorial Psalm - Ps 125. R. v.3.**

*R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

**Second Reading -Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11**

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

**Gospel Acclamation - Luke 3:4. 6**

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the

Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia

**Gospel - Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

**Family Connection...**

During the season of Advent, we choose to add many activities to our family's schedule to prepare for our celebration of Christmas. John the Baptist reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out this sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Talk about how John the Baptist called upon the people to prepare the way of the Lord through repentance. Together as a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas. Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around the family Advent wreath. Read again from today's Gospel, Luke 3:1-6. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive his or her sins. Pray together the Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing the sign of peace with one another. © 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.*

## A message from our incoming Parish Priest, Fr Gayan Thamel...

I was born in Sri Lanka and moved to Western Australia in 2000 after completing three years of seminary formation in Sri Lanka. I then



completed the rest of my theological studies at St Charles Seminary in Guildford, WA. In 2002, I was ordained a priest at St Patrick's Cathedral in Bunbury, WA.

I served in the Bunbury Diocese for 18 years, working in various parishes as both Assistant Priest and parish priest. As Bunbury is a country diocese, it involved a lot of driving, which became challenging over time. In 2017, I was diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis (DVT). After several tests and consultations, my specialist advised that I limit driving, as it could be a risk factor for recurrence. After much reflection and prayer, I decided to move to the Parramatta Diocese in 2018, as it would help me with less driving.

I joined the Windsor Parish as Assistant Priest, and in 2020, I became the parish priest at Richmond. In 2020, I was officially incardinated into the Parramatta Diocese.

Alongside my duties as a parish priest, I also serve as a Specialist Reserve Chaplain with the Royal Australian Air Force at RAAF base Richmond, a role I began while in WA. I have been a Reserve Chaplain for nine years and plan to continue this ministry once a week from Marsden Park. Additionally, Bishop Vincent has appointed me as the Episcopal Vicar for Migrant Chaplains in the Diocese.

I have a brother and sister, and my mother is still alive. My father passed away 12 years ago. In my free time, I enjoy walking, jogging, and motorbike riding. I look forward to meeting all of you and continuing our faith journey together. God bless - Fr Gayan.

## 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](http://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](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au).

## Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Houses to Homes

This Christmas, will you help homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provide homeless mothers and their children with practical and emotional support, and a safe haven to call home. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan this QR code to give your gift of a new beginning today. Thank you.



## 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](http://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](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org)



## 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

Pastoral Director:

Deacon Tony Hoban

Administration Assistant: (Thurs & Fri)

Gerald "Ged" Oblea

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Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark](http://www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark)

Address:

2 Springdale St, Marsden Park

Postal Address:

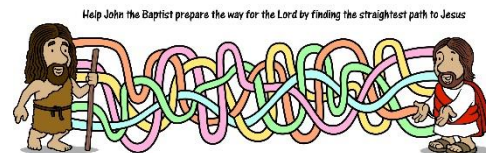
PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765

## Christmas & New Year's Mass Times

DEC 24<sup>th</sup> – 7.00pm (Family Mass) & 11.00pm (International Mass).

DEC 25<sup>th</sup> – 10.00am

JAN 1<sup>st</sup> '25 – 9.00am



Help John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord by finding the straightest path to Jesus