



St Luke's
CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

MARSDEN PARK



WEEKLY BULLETIN

24th / 25th DECEMBER 2024

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year C.

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."

Our Community Prayers:

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 DEACON TONY & ANNETTE...



It is with mixed emotions that we prepare to complete our ministry in Marsden Park.

The past seven years have been a richly rewarding time for us. It has been a joy to see our community grow from about 150 people to about 650. While COVID lockdowns were tough on us all, we were amazed at how quickly our community adapted to online liturgies and how many people were actively involved in each liturgy, from musicians, to readers, to children giving their input. It was also a joy to see how quickly we bounced back to 'life as normal' after the 2nd lockdown.

From day one we set out to ensure our pastoral leadership was one that involved many voices. Our initial advisory committee met around our kitchen table and then morphed into a Pastoral Council, a Pastoral Leadership Group and many ministry leaders. We are blessed to now have possibly 150 people involved in some form of ministry which is a very high ratio of our community and one that shows this as an active faith community.

The one constant person through all of our advisory/leadership groups has been Tessie James. Tessie has a great passion for her faith, and in supporting the faith of others, is shown in her leadership of our Faith Enhancement ministry. And, as she loves alliterations, we can honestly laud Terrific Tessie the Tenacious Theologian!

Tessie's husband, James Irudayaraj, has been another constant. James is known by us as the 'Chairman of the Chairmen' as he has led our logistics team from some of the earliest days of St Luke's life. Frankly, we would not have lasted as long here, with all of the weekly physical requirements of moving hundreds of chairs, musical equipment, altars, statues, and numerous other items, if it wasn't for the efforts of James and his team. We will sadly be absent from James' weekly 'photo time' from now on!

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MARSDEN PARK

WEEKEND MASSES NEW YEAR MASS TIME

Saturday 5.30pm 1st January 2025 9am

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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MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765.

Aleta Dela Cruz is someone we call the Energizer Bunny! Her energy and workload are incredible. The work she has done in leading fundraising efforts, particularly for our Carols and Dinner dance events has been amazing. And she has also been the Secretary of our Pastoral Council and Pastoral Leadership Group since their inception. And she has been the leader of our hospitality ministry for much our time here. We don't know where she gets the energy for all that she does, but we are so glad that she does.

We thank also the two Chairs of our Pastoral Council, Gari de Guzman and Nars Lumba. To form a cohesive and well-functioning Pastoral Council in the middle of the first COVID lockdown time was a testament to the can-do attitude of our community. Gari has also been our pledge champion, successfully encouraging many of you to give generously to support our church building fund. Gari is also in formation for the diaconate and we pray for his ongoing formation and discernment towards being a deacon one day. Nars has also been our social media leader, and involved in fundraising, contributing greatly to our community.

Arvin Joya has been leader of our Finance Advisory Committee from its inception. His attention to detail is a great asset to our faith community and he has been a great contributor to our financial planning and overall community leadership.

We have been blessed with an ever-growing number of choirs at St Luke's. We thank our initial leader of music ministry, Mark Rupac and his successor Antonio Alano and are thankful for Cristina Joya for agreeing to take up this role from 2025. Cristina and Gloria Angeles have done wonderful things with both the St Luke's Choral and Children's choir.

Thank you to our other ministry leaders who we have not yet mentioned:

- Children's Liturgy – currently Mandy Goswami, who took over from Cristina Joya and before that Julie Preston.
- Youth Ministry – currently Lady Vinensig, who took over from Julia Hoban, and initially Dinease and Dan Peiris.
- Special Religious Education – Catherine Talam and initially Marie Raymundo.
- Welcome Ministry – Ana and Jorge Pasaquian.
- Our collection counters from day one, John and Juanita Cruikshank

And thank you to everyone who volunteers in these ministries.

A special thanks to our Pastoral Council members who have diligently supported us and provided the voice of the community. We thank diocesan leaders and staff, including Ministry Enhancement Team members, accounts staff, Parish support and Safeguarding staff for their support in many ways. We also thank Richard McMahon and Lisa Bright who provided great leadership support in our initial years.

We thank the leadership of St Luke's Catholic College, especially the initial Principal Leader, Greg Miller, and current leader, Kelly Bauer. They have both been wonderful to work with and strong supporters of a collaborative relationship between our learning and faith communities. We also thank college business manager, Anne Clark, who has been our go-to person for a range of property matters, many of which occur after hours.

Julie Atkins has been the backbone of our Sacramental Program over the past seven years, teaching a majority of the preparation classes and also carrying out the painstaking task of managing a database of hundreds of children and their family details every year, as well as being our key college contact for RE and liturgy matters.

We have already said publicly that while we have three children whom we love dearly, St Luke's feels like our fourth child. We are privileged that all three children have been part of the life of St Luke's from the start with Lisa and Julia undertaking music ministry, Julia leading youth ministry for a number of years, Jamie supporting with youth ministry and serving as an Acolyte. We have also roped in our newest family members: Lisa's husband, Andy, who has been a regular 'roadie' for the girls and helped with many ad-hoc technical issues; Jamie's wife, Sacha, has often helped with PowerPoint clicking at Mass; Julia's fiancé, Pete, has been an occasional musician at Masses and Carols events. And our two granddaughters, Maribel and Charlotte, have added their own touch of cuteness to our liturgical gatherings!

As a community we have shown great powers of adaptability, having Mass in four different locations over the past seven years. We are lucky, however, to have such wonderful facilities within St Luke's Catholic College for our liturgies.

We thank the numerous priests who have come to celebrate Mass at St Luke's including our initial Supervising Priest, Fr Chris deSouza. In the early days, the priests from the Order of St Camilus, Fr Bong, Fr Meng and Fr Dado, were here often. We thank the Jesuits from Emerton and the priests from Marayong for helping us regularly, with special thanks to Fr Kevin Redmond who has also supported us each month in the past year with a College staff Mass and Mass at Marsden Park Community Care. Fathers Paul Marshall and John Frauenfelder from our seminary were great supporters until they took on pastoral leadership of Harris Park Parish last year. We thank Fr Jonas Donasco for his support in more recent times.

Great thanks go to Fr Andrew Hennes and Fr Joseph Nguyen. Fr Andrew has been celebrant for a majority of our Vigil Masses for the past 5 years. Fr Joseph has been a very generous supporter of our community since he arrived in our Diocese from Melbourne and been celebrant for 3 Sunday Masses a month in recent years and also fills in for our Vigil Mass on occasions.

Finally, a huge thank you to Bishop Vincent Long for trusting us to lead this community in a unique pastoral leadership model in what we understand to be the first urban faith community in Australia entrusted to be led by a married deacon and his wife. We have done our best to repay his trust in us.

Many people have been generous in giving thanks to us for what we have done here. The greatest thanks you can give us is by continuing to contribute to the life of St Luke's and growing in your faith life and discipleship of Jesus Christ.

We will miss you but we know that Fr Gayan will be a suitable new parent to our baby, well supported by administration assistant, Ged Oblea!

May God bless you all, now and always.

Deacon Tony and Annette Hoban

Welcoming our new Parish Team 2025...



Our New Parish Priest - From the 1st January 2025

Fr. Gayan Thamel is also the Episcopal Vicar for Migrant Chaplaincies



Gerald "Ged" Oblea

Administration Assistant (Thursday - Friday)

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO ST.LUKE'S PARISH

St Luke's Church Building fund
 BSB: 067 950 Account: 0004307
 Account Name: St Luke's Marsden Park.
 Reference: (Your name)



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.



CONNECT WITH US



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.



CELEBRANTS FOR MASSES

We welcome this week as our Celebrants:
 Fr Andrew Hennes (5.30pm Mass) - 28th December
 Bishop Vincent Long (10am) - 29th December

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

There will be Mass on New Years Day at 9am. This will be the first Mass of St Luke's Catholic Parish with Fr Gayan Thamel celebrating the Mass as the new Parish Priest. Mass will be in the Performance Hall.



OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS

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, ensures 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.



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

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.

Parish Secretary needed Part-time. Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from the Parish Offices at St Patrick's Church, 51-19 Allawah Street, Blacktown. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, with working hours from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney. For job description and details, please email admin@mqqofblacktown.org.au



