



St Luke's

CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



WEEKLY BULLETIN

12th JANUARY 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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 Parish 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.

Sunday Reflection

Not all the Gospels mention the birth of Jesus, but all of them highlight His baptism. Baptism is where we receive forgiveness for our sins, a sacrament symbolizing repentance and cleansing.

In Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus approaches John the Baptist to be baptized, John is taken aback. He says, "I shouldn't be baptizing you!" Baptism, as John understood, is for sinners—a sign of repentance. John questions Jesus, essentially saying, "What are you doing in my place, and why am I in yours? Why are you submitting to the waters of cleansing when you are sinless? It should be the other way around!"

Jesus responds, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Through this act, Jesus reveals His mission—not just to share in our baptism but to live our lives, fulfill the law, and ultimately die in our place so that we might stand in His.

This profound exchange ties into today's readings. When the Father declares, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased," He references two Old Testament passages. The first, Psalm 2, proclaims the Messiah as the King who will rule the nations: "You are my Son; today I have begotten you." The second, from Isaiah 42, speaks of the Suffering Servant: "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight."

How can the Messianic King from Psalm 2 also be the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 42? John wrestles with this mystery, acknowledging his unworthiness: "I am not even worthy to untie His sandals." Yet God affirms it—And a voice came from heaven "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Jesus is both the King and the Servant. He has come to take our place, to bear our burdens, and to bring us into His righteousness.

Through His baptism, Jesus identifies with us completely, beginning the work of redemption that culminates on the cross. Let us reflect on this truth as we hear the Word and celebrate His presence in our lives.

God Bless

Fr Gayan.



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

Baptisms available every 1st, 3rd and Fourth Sundays at 11.30am. Apply via email.

Reconciliation: Every Saturday 4.45pm to 5.25pm.

CONTACT US

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MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Baptism of the Lord

First Reading - Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

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. When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Every week we will be reflecting on explanations of Catholic liturgical and devotional practices. The material is arranged in five sections: I. The Sunday Mass II. The Church Year III. Saints & Devotions IV. Sign and Sacraments V. RCIA



Part I. Sunday Mass Why Sunday?

On Sundays we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. According to the biblical story, on the seventh day God rested having completed the creation of the world. Appropriately, on the first day of the week Christians commemorate the 'new creation': the renewal of the world through Christ's loving sacrifice. Traditionally Christians approach this day as a day of worship and celebration, focusing on their faith community and their family. This Sunday, take time out to give extra emphasis to this celebration. (E.g., Spend time with your children, take a walk with a friend, prayerfully review the Sunday readings.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Lent commences on Wednesday 5th March 2025. Would you like to host, facilitate or participate in a parish Lenten Discussion group. Discussions focus on the Sunday Gospels. Material made available through the Parish Office. Please complete the below to register your interest or scan QR Code. Return to the Parish office or place on the collection plate during Mass. Please reply by the 2nd February as materials are required to be ordered.



Name/s: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yes I / We would like to host a group.

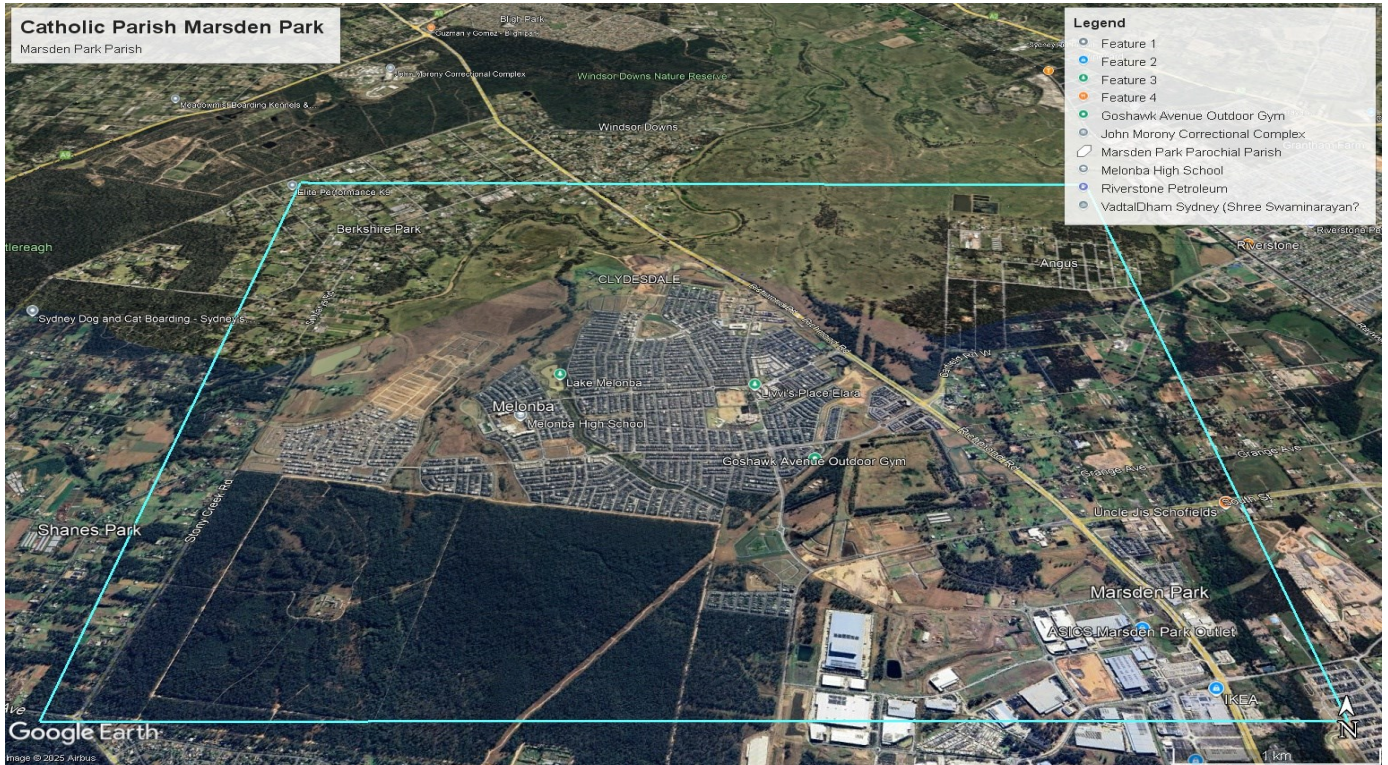
Or

Yes I/We would like to participate in a group

Preferred Day: _____

Preferred Time: Morning: Evening:

New Parish Boundaries ~ Now Established



We are pleased to announce that the Parish boundaries have been officially established! To help you better understand the areas covered by our Parish, the Google map can be seen above.



Cleaner Required for the Presbytery.

We are seeking a reliable and efficient cleaner for the Parish presbytery. The position involves cleaning fortnightly for 2 hours. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Parish Office.



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.



MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

During our Masses on the weekend, three Mass intentions will be available to be mentioned. If you wish to offer a Mass intention, please take an envelope available at welcome table, complete the details and specify which Mass you would like this be offered. If you have questions in regards to this please do not hesitate to contact the parish office for more information.



Request via phone will also be accepted.

HOLY WATER AVAILABLE

Holy water is available for you to take home. Bring a bottle to fill from the marked container located at the entrance to the Performance Hall during Mass times.



COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

Death Anniversary:

Jose Maria Armando Jimenez (3rd Year)

If you have prayer needs, please visit our website:
<https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>



TIME & TALENT NEEDED

Call for Finance Committee Members

Our Parish is forming a new Finance Committee and is seeking three parishioners with an interest in parish finances and some financial experience to help guide our financial planning and stewardship. If you're interested in contributing your expertise to this important ministry, please contact Fr Gayan.

Adopt a Garden – Your Help is Needed!

We're looking for parishioners to help care for the presbytery garden by adopting one of its four sections. Each section is a small, manageable area. This is a great way to contribute to our Parish and enjoy some time outdoors.

We're also hoping to add some pot plants to brighten up the parish office area. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office.

A NOTE OF THANKS

On behalf of the parish community we would like to thank everyone who supported our Carols 2024 event. The net profit from the Carols was \$11,669.14. A special thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, and St Luke's Catholic College for the excellent collaboration to bring Carols 2024 to success.

OTHER COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE VERY REVEREND ROBERT RIEDLING DEAN OF ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA, CORDIALLY INVITES MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND LEGAL COMMUNITY, PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICIALS, LAW STUDENTS, AND THEIR FAMILIES TO THE ANNUAL RED MASS 7:00PM, MONDAY 03 FEBRUARY 2025 ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, 1 MARIST PLACE, PARRAMATTA REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE MASS— PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE: ENQUIRY@STPATSCATHEDRAL.COM.AU 02 8839 8400 RSVP BY: FRIDAY, 31 JANUARY

ITEMS FOR SALE - CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE



Coffee Table
\$30.00



Student Table On Wheels
\$20.00



Dining Table with Six Chairs
\$100.00

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Advertise in Our Parish Bulletin

Do you own a business or know someone who does? We are offering the opportunity to advertise in our parish bulletin. This is a wonderful way to support our parish and connect with the local community. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the parish office.

We encourage you to support the advertisers that support us. Thank You! Please understand that St Luke's Catholic Parish Marsden Park cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.