



# St Luke's

CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

26th JANUARY 2025

THE COMMEMORATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY

### 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*

Jesus tells us, "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." At first, this might seem odd—how can we rejoice when life is difficult? The Beatitudes, which Jesus shares in the Gospel, teach us that true happiness doesn't come from things like popularity, success, or comfort. Real joy comes from living humbly, showing mercy, and striving for peace.

Being "poor in spirit" doesn't mean being weak or lacking—it means acknowledging that we don't have everything figured out. For teens, this might mean admitting that you don't always know what to do in school, friendships, or life. When you ask for help or guidance, you tap into God's strength. It's like asking a teacher for help when something's unclear—it takes courage but leads to growth.

"Blessed are the merciful" means forgiving others, even when they don't deserve it. Someone may have hurt you, said something unkind, or let you down. It's easy to hold onto anger, but Jesus calls us to forgive. Mercy may seem hard, but forgiving brings peace. Letting go of bitterness frees your heart, and although you may not feel like forgiving, it brings true freedom.

Australia Day reminds us to be thankful for our country—its freedom, beauty, and opportunities. But it also gives us a chance to think about how we can live out the Beatitudes. Maybe it's being kind to someone who feels left out, standing up for someone being bullied, or helping in your community. These actions, though small, reflect God's love and bring joy to others.

The Beatitudes show us that true joy comes from God. It's not about fitting in or seeking popularity; it's about kindness, humility, and serving others. When we do this, we store up joy that lasts forever with God.

So this week, think about how you can live out the Beatitudes. Let's love when it's hard, forgive when it's undeserved, and serve when it's unnoticed. Every small act of love is a reason to rejoice.

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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# LITURGY OF THE WORD

**The Commemoration of Australia Day**

**Isaiah 32:15-18**

Once more there will be poured on us the spirit from above; then shall the wilderness be fertile land and fertile land become forest. In the wilderness justice will come to live and integrity in the fertile land; integrity will bring peace, justice give lasting security. My people will live in a peaceful home, in safe houses, in quiet dwellings.

**Responsorial Psalm - Ps 84:9-14. R. v.9**

(R.) The Lord speaks of peace to his people.

**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

**Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 5:9**

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**  
**AT SUNDAY MASS**  
**Returns on 9th February**



## 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



**What's that word mean?**

The word 'liturgy' comes from two Greek words meaning the 'work of the people.' We are reminded that when we gather to worship it is the whole community that participates. It is not simply the work of the priest and altar servers with the rest of the congregation looking on. The term 'eucharist' comes from the Greek word 'eucharistia' ('thanksgiving'). It was used in the early Church to refer to the entire celebration as well as to the consecrated bread and wine. The Mass is the greatest act of worship by which Christians give thanks for the salvation God has offered us through Jesus Christ.

## 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:

## INSTALLATION OF FR GAYAN ~ PARISH PRIEST

You are warmly invited to join us for the installation of Fr Gayan Thamel as parish priest of St Luke's Catholic Parish. This special celebration will be officiated by Bishop Vincent Long during the 10am Mass on Sunday, 9 February 2025. Following the Mass, a Morning Tea will be held to mark the occasion. We kindly ask you to bring a plate of food to share as we come together in fellowship and gratitude for this new chapter in our Parish community.

## A NOTE OF THANKS!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped Fr Gayan move into the presbytery and arrange the house, as well as those who assisted in cleaning the Parish Office. We also extend our gratitude to the family who donated the iPad. There are so many who give their time, talent, and treasure to support our Parish, and we are truly blessed by your generosity.

## 2025: A JUBILEE YEAR

Themed "Pilgrims of Hope", this Jubilee Year brings hope to a world facing war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19, and the climate crisis. It begins on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica and ends on 6 January 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany, with its closing.



Celebrated every 25 years, a Jubilee is a sacred time of grace, mercy, and renewal, marked by prayer, pilgrimage, and reconciliation.

In our Diocese, we are invited to visit one or more Jubilee pilgrimage sites:

- St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
  - Mount Schoenstatt Shrine, Mulgoa
  - The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville
- Pilgrims may receive a Jubilee Indulgence. Those unable to travel due to illness or other circumstances can join spiritually by offering daily struggles, participating in reconciliation, prayer, and the Eucharist.

## DAILY MASS TIMES & SURVEY

We are excited to announce that Daily Mass will now be celebrated in our parish on:

Wednesdays & Fridays (time to be confirmed).

To help us determine the best time for weekday Mass—morning or evening—we invite you to share your preference by completing a short survey. A Google Form will be sent via email to those who are on our mailing list, or you can use the QR code provided to access it quickly.



The venue for our daily Mass is still being decided and will be announced shortly.

## TIME & TALENT NEEDED

### 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.

## CANDLEMAS ~ BLESSING OF CANDLES

40 days after Christmas, Sunday 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as CANDLEMAS. This day is called "Candlemas", as the Church traditionally offers a blessing of candles at Mass on that day. For those who would like to have their candles blessed, please bring them either at the Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass. Place candles on table next to altar before Mass starts.

## DO YOU HAVE A SPARE LAPTOP ?

Do You Have a spare laptop? We're in need of a laptop to be used for the Children's Liturgy Ministry. If you have a laptop you can spare with a minimum of Windows 10 operating system, please contact the Parish Office. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated!

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO ST LUKE'S PARISH

**St Luke's Church Building fund**  
**BSB: 067 950 Account: 100005720**  
**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.



## COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

### Recently Deceased:

*Wellington Lim Yu*



*If you have prayer needs, please visit our website:*

<https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/>

## ROSARY BLOCK

Welcome the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to your home. Take the statue home after the Sunday 10am Mass and return before Saturday 5.30pm Mass. Register your interest on the roster on the information tables outside the performance hub.



# DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

## Notices from our Diocese...

**Solemn High Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of The Lord and World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life: 2 February** Join us for Mass at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and a special celebration of Consecrated Life. Jubilee candles for each Order or Congregation will be blessed during a short ceremony in the Cathedral courtyard then carried in procession into the Cathedral.

**Red Mass for judiciary and legal community: 3 February** - 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 on Monday 3 February at 7:00pm, (refreshments following Mass). Please RSVP by Friday, 31 January to enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au or call 02 8839 8400.

**Diocesan World Day of Prayer for the Sick: 11 February** - A World Day of Prayer for the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2025 via par-racatholic.org/world-day-prayer-feb11

Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God.

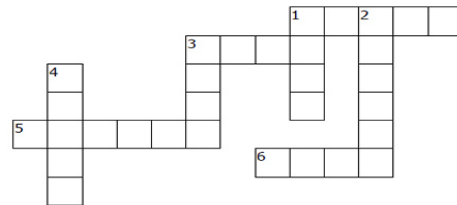
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### The Beatitudes

### The Beatitudes

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."  
Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12



#### ACROSS

- To show great kindness toward others
- To be without any faults; without sin
- A need for food
- To feel happiness, joy and pleasure

#### DOWN

- To be humble in spirit or manner
- A payment received in return for doing good deeds
- Having little money or few possessions
- To feel sadness

REWARD	POOR	MOURN	MEEK
HUNGER	PURE	GLAD	MERCY

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