



St Luke's

CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



WEEKLY BULLETIN

5th JANUARY 2025

THE EPIPHANY 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.

A message from Our New Parish Priest...



As I begin my journey as the new Parish Priest of St Luke's, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to Deacon Tony and Annette for their wonderful ministry and dedication to our Parish community. Their tireless efforts and love for St Luke's have left a lasting legacy, and I am deeply grateful for all they have done.

Our Parish vision inspires and challenges us: "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."

This is a powerful mission, and I am excited to help continue this work with all of you.

I know I don't have all the gifts to achieve this vision alone. That's why I warmly invite each of you to share your gifts, talents, and ideas as we work together to grow our Parish and deepen our collective relationship with Jesus. Building a vibrant, welcoming, and transformative community takes all of us working hand in hand.

As I settle into this new role, please be patient and gentle with me as I get to know you, learn the unique ways St Luke's operates, and understand the rich traditions and practices that make this Parish special. I look forward to walking alongside you, listening to your stories, and growing together in faith.

Let us support one another in prayer and action as we embark on this new chapter, trusting that with God's guidance, we will continue to make St Luke's a place where everyone feels welcomed, loved, and transformed.

God Bless

Fr Gayan.



WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am

Baptisms available every second Sunday after Mass. Apply via email.

Reconciliation: from 11th January every Saturday 4.45pm to 5.25pm.

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr Gayan Thamel.

Email: gayan.thamel@parracatholic.org

Administration Assistant: Gerald "Ged" Oblea
(Thurs & Fri)

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Website: stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

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Address: 55 Frontier Ave, Marsden Park

Postal Address: PO Box 4045, Elara Village,
MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765.

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)

Fr Gayan will be taking his day off on Mondays. On Tuesdays, he will dedicate his time to Chaplaincy ministry at the RAAF Base Richmond.

As a member of the Diocesan Consultor Fr Gayan has commitments at the Diocesan Office on the third Thursday of each month. In his role as Episcopal Vicar to Migrant Chaplains, he will also attend special gatherings and events with multicultural communities as needed.

Ged will be available in the Parish office on Thursdays and Fridays to assist with any inquiries or Parish matters. If you need to get in touch, please don't hesitate to contact Fr Gayan or Ged by email or phone.



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.

PRAYER REQUEST

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



INTERESTED IN LITURGICAL MINISTRY?

Liturgical Ministry Course

Dates for 2025

This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

To register or find out more contact lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460037 795



BABY NEWS



On behalf of our Parish Community we would like to congratulate Ged and Samantha for welcoming into the world their 5th Child Gianna Naomi Oblea, who was born on Friday 3rd January 2025 at 6.04pm. Baby Gianna and Sam are doing well.

POSITIONS VACANT

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@mqofblacktown.org.au*

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.

OTHER COMMUNITY NOTICES

St Paul Feast Day celebration: 18 January

Come Join the Celebrations at the St Paul's Feast. Saturday, 18 January 2025 at 5.30pm at St Monica's, Richmond. Feast Mass Saturday 18 January St Monica's, Richmond at 5.30pm followed by procession. Other details Lady Queen of Peace band, BBQ, food, drinks, rides and chocolate wheel.

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. Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Office

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to offer advice and assistance regarding marriage annulments and dissolution of marriages. Interviews are preferably conducted in person with Zoom and telephone interviews in special circumstances. Please contact the Tribunal Office on (02) 8838 3480 or email: tribunal@parracatholic.org.

WORLD DAY FOR THE SICK

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, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVP for catering purposes by 6 February 2025 to ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795 or register online : <https://parracatholic.org/events/diocesan-world-day-of-prayer-for-the-sick-11-february>

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11
(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

Second Reading - Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

(Con't)

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight,
and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

FAMILY CONNECTION

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received.

What was it?

What made it special?

Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?



Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12.

The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

