



*St Luke's*  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

23rd FEBRUARY 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR C

*We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.*

## Sunday Reflection

Dear one and all,

In Luke 6:27-38, Jesus presents a radical vision of love that goes beyond human instincts: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." This is not just an ethical teaching but an invitation to live in a way that reflects God's own mercy.

The world teaches us to treat others as they deserve, to return kindness with kindness and harm with harm. But Jesus calls us to something higher—to love even when it is undeserved. Imagine a colleague at work who undermines you. The usual response is to protect yourself or seek fairness. But what if, instead, you responded with grace, continuing to work with integrity and even showing kindness? Not because they deserve it, but because this is how God treats us.

At home, relationships can be strained. A sharp word from a spouse, sibling, or friend can make us want to lash out. Yet Jesus calls us to patience and blessing, not just because it keeps the peace, but because it mirrors how God responds to us. Forgiveness is never easy—it costs something. When we choose to forgive rather than retaliate, we absorb the cost instead of passing it on. This is exactly what Christ did for us—taking on the weight of our sins so that we might live in freedom.

Even in the wider community, we meet people who are rude or dismissive. A neighbor who refuses to acknowledge you, a stranger who is impatient. Our natural instinct is to ignore them or respond in kind. But Jesus calls us to act not based on what others deserve, but on who we are as children of God. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." This mercy is not just a duty—it is a sign that we have been transformed by the mercy we ourselves have received.

Jesus promises that when we live this way, "A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over" will be given to us. This is not a promise of material reward but a deeper spiritual truth. The more we grasp God's grace, the more we experience the abundance of His kingdom. This week, as we navigate work, home, and community life, may we ask ourselves: how can I extend God's mercy today?

*God Bless ~ Fr Gayan.*



### CONTACT US

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

**Address:** 55 Frontier Ave, Marsden Park

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

**Parish Office:** Currently open on Thursdays & Friday from 9.30am to 2.30pm - Temporary Office in demountable building at western end of carpark within St Luke's Catholic College, Frontier Avenue entrance.



### 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."

**Parish School:** St. Luke's Catholic College, Marsden Park.

**College Principal:** Kelly Bauer

**Address:** Cnr Frontier Avenue & Northbourne Drive Marsden Park 2765 NSW

**Open Weekdays:** 8:30am - 2:40pm

**Phone:** (02) 9854 3100

**Email:** [stlukesmarsdenpark@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stlukesmarsdenpark@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**School Motto:** "Live the Good News".

*In a place where 'Learning = Infinite Possibilities', staff and parents work in partnership to nurture faith-filled, curious children to become creative contributors and innovative problem solvers for our changing world.*



**St Luke's**  
Catholic College

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

#### First Reading - 1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

#### Responsorial Psalm - Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

#### Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

If The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly

man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

#### Gospel Acclamation - John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

#### Gospel - Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

#### PARISH MASS TIMES:

##### Weekday Mass Times:

Wednesday 7.30am

Friday 6.30pm

- Weekday Mass at temporary Parish Chapel access through parish office.

##### Sunday Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am at St Luke's Catholic College

- Performance Hub (On Saturdays enter via Northbourne Drive only and on Sundays Frontier Avenue and Northbourne Drive carpark).

##### RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Saturdays: 4.30pm to 5.25pm

or by appointment.

##### BAPTISMS:

Every 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. Booking & Preparation are essential. Contact Parish office to register.

##### MARRIAGES:

Strictly by appointment. A minimum of 6 months notice is required. All enquiries please email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

##### SACRAMENTAL PROCESS:

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation, and RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. All enquiries please email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

##### CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

During School Term at Saturday Vigil & Sunday Mass. Commencing this weekend.

##### YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday.

Next Meeting: 28th February

All enquiries please email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

##### SRE-SCRIPTURE PROGRAM:

Every Tuesday at Public schools during school term. Volunteers required. All enquiries please email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

##### MORNING TEA:

Every 2nd Sunday after 10.00am Mass,

##### MARSDEN PARK CARE COMMUNITY MASS

2nd Friday of each month at 11am. If you would like to join Fr Gayan, please contact the Parish Office in advance, as spaces are limited.

##### 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.

##### PARISH TEAM MEETINGS:

##### Next Parish Council Meeting:

15th March 2025

##### Next Finance Committee Meeting:

27th February 2025



St Luke's  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION APPROVED

It is with great joy that we announce that our subsequent DA for stage 1 of our church has been approved by Blacktown council. As you may have been aware, our parish required to lodge another DA to the council, as the original design of stage 1 of our church building project needed to be flipped to accommodate access services such as electricity, plumbing and so on. With this approval, we are now ready to move on to the next phase - getting ready for construction. Whilst this is exciting news we ask for your continued patience and to pray especially through the intercession of our patron, St Luke - that the project is completed safely and on time.

### MINISTRY RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Our Parish 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."*

You are invited to be part of this mission by joining one of our ministries! Come to our Ministry Recruitment Drive on Sunday, March 16, and discover how you can use your gifts to serve. Whether in liturgy, hospitality, music, media, outreach, or other areas, there is a place for you! Meet our ministry leaders, learn about the various ministries, and take the next step in growing your faith through service. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* – 1 Peter 4:10

### CATECHESIS ON MASS

Continuing this weekend, we will present short 2-3 minute video clips by Archbishop Mark Coleridge during weekend Masses. This 16-session series will focus on various parts of the Mass, helping us to deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist and fully participate in this great gift of the Church.

### FRIENDLY PHONE CHATS WITH FR GAYAN

To help meet and connect with parishioners in a quicker way than through traditional house visits, Fr Gayan will be calling people on the parish contact list for a friendly chat in the coming weeks. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch up and get to know each other a little bit better. Please look out for his call!

### TIME FOR PRAYER IN THE PARISH CHAPEL

You are warmly invited to spend time in prayer and reflection in our temporary chapel, located next to the parish office. The chapel will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

### PRAYING FOR OUR RCIA CATECHUMENS

Our parish is blessed with nine RCIA catechumens preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. As part of their journey, they will participate in the Scrutinies on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent—sacred rites of prayer and healing, helping them turn away from sin and embrace Christ's grace. Please keep them in your prayers as they take these final steps toward full communion with the Church. Join us in witnessing their journey!

## STEWARDSHIP: PARISH DONATIONS

Donations can be made using the bank details below, or via the Tap-and-go machine and online donations which are accepted through our parish website at <https://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au/donate/>. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

### SUPPORT DONATIONS

BSB: 067 950 Account: 100005720

Account Name: Marsden Park St Luke's Parish

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

If you would like to include the name of a loved one who is sick or recently deceased in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office. We pray for those in our Community who are sick:

Daisy Pangilinan

Grant Eternal Rest to the recently deceased:

*Gabriela Llarenas.*

... and those we remember at this time:

*Jasmin Fernando (1st Year Death Anniversary)*

*Anthony Xuereb*

*Victor & Margaret Muscat*

## OUR PARISH PREPARATIONS FOR EASTER

### ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, 5th March, at 7pm in the Performance Hall at St Luke's Catholic College. ***Please note that there will be NO 7.30am Mass on that day.***

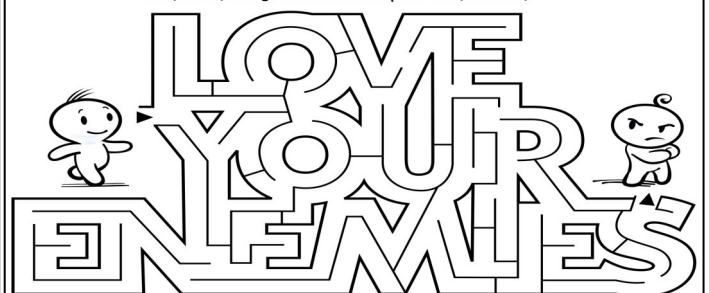
### PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM

We appreciate all those who registered their interest for participating, in our Lenten program. Fr Gayan will be leading a Lenten discussion groups on Thursday evenings at 7pm for five weeks commencing on 6th March in the Parish Office. If you wish to take part please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will take place in the chapel every Friday during Lent following the 6.30pm Mass, starting on Friday, March 7th. All are invited to join in this special time of reflection and prayer as we journey through the passion of Christ.

Find your way through the maze to make peace with your enemy.





# Sacramental Process 2025



Available for	Enrolment closing Date	Enrolment Mass Dates	Weekly Groups Begin	Ceremonies
For Children who are already Baptised (Catholic) and aged 7 or above Link to Registration Form: <a href="https://forms.gle/qGEWgqRto3bvaz9H9">https://forms.gle/qGEWgqRto3bvaz9H9</a>	<b>Reconciliation / Penance</b> closes 29 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Saturday August 2nd 5.30pm or Sunday August 3rd 10am or Saturday August 9th 5.30pm or Sunday August 10th 10am.</b>	<b>Classes Commence 30th July</b>	<b>St Luke's Catholic College 20<sup>th</sup> August (6pm &amp; 8pm)</b>
For children 8 or 9 years old who have already been Baptised and made their First Reconciliation Link to Registration Form: <a href="https://forms.gle/Riz7ygy1yWTgjd118">https://forms.gle/Riz7ygy1yWTgjd118</a>	<b>First Holy Communion</b> Closes 20 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Saturday May 24th 5.30pm or Sunday May 25th 10am or Saturday May 31st 5.30pm or Sunday June 1st 10am</b>	<b>Classes Commence from 28th May</b>	<b>St. Luke's Catholic College Saturday, June 21 (5.30pm) and Sunday, June 22 (10am – and possibly 11.30am extra Mass, depending on numbers) – Feast of Corpus Christi.</b>
For children 10 years old who have already been Baptised and made their First Reconciliation & First Eucharist. Link to Registration Form: <a href="https://forms.gle/fhs4T4DSDemZhnwJ7">https://forms.gle/fhs4T4DSDemZhnwJ7</a>	<b>Confirmation</b> Closes 20 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>(Saturday August 23rd 5.30pm or Sunday August 24th 10am or Saturday August 30th 5.30pm or Sunday August 31st 10am</b>	<b>Classes Commence from 27<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>St. Luke's Catholic College Friday 24th October, 7pm Mass.</b>

## WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

### Why do we sign ourselves before the Gospel?



The Church distinguishes between the 'large' sign of the cross (made with right hand outstretched on forehead, chest and shoulders) and the 'small' sign of the cross (made with the thumb on forehead, mouth and chest). With this latter action just prior to the reading of the Gospel, we are asking God's blessing upon our thoughts, words and desires. Next time you make this sign, be aware that you are praying to open yourself to God's Word.



On behalf of the Parish community we would like congratulate the Christ Angels Choir on their 3rd Year anniversary!

This group consist of children ages 6 to 12 who are very passionate to serve and lead the congregation at Mass singing every 4th Sunday of the month under the guidance of Gloria Angeles and Cristina Joya.

The following members of the choir Yanna, Alicia, Andrea, Isis, Joaquin, Aria and Ellie will now be joining the St Luke's Youth Choir. We are truly blessed to have all these children, their families, and our parishioners for their continued support!

## COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

**gleesons law.**  
A law firm based in Sydney practising exclusively in criminal defence + traffic law.

**Dominic Gleeson, Principal**  
Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law)  
M: 0431 987 234  
[www.gleesonslaw.com.au](http://www.gleesonslaw.com.au)




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**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/golddisability>**  
**Ph: 1300 010 166**



**Registered Tax Agent and CPA**  
**Call for appointment**  
**0406 989 615 or 0432 610 180**

### 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.