



*St Luke's*  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

16TH MARCH 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

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

## *Sunday Reflection*

The Transfiguration in Luke 9:28-36 reveals both the glory of Jesus and the necessity of the cross. As Jesus prays, His appearance changes, His clothes become dazzling white, and He is joined by Moses and Elijah, who speak with Him about His "departure"—a word that also means "exodus." This is a profound moment where Jesus is shown as the fulfillment of both the Law and the Prophets. Peter, overwhelmed, suggests building shelters to preserve the moment, but a cloud overshadows them, and the voice of God declares, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!" The vision ends, leaving only Jesus before them.



The timing of the Transfiguration is significant. Jesus has just begun teaching His disciples that He must suffer, die, and rise again. This moment on the mountain is a reassurance that His path of suffering is not a failure but part of God's redemptive plan. The disciples want to stay in the glory, but Jesus leads them back down, because faith is not about escaping hardship but learning to trust in the midst of it.

Lent mirrors this journey. It is a season where we, like the disciples, are called to recognize both the cost and the promise of following Christ. The mention of Jesus' "exodus" connects to Israel's deliverance from slavery, reminding us that Lent is about our own exodus from sin, selfishness, and spiritual complacency. Transformation comes not from avoiding suffering but from walking through it with trust in God.

The Father's command to "listen to Him" is a reminder that true change happens when we hear and obey Christ's voice. In a world filled with distractions, Lent calls us to set aside time for prayer, Scripture, and self-examination. The Transfiguration points us forward to the resurrection, assuring us that suffering is never the end of the story. As we journey through Lent, we follow Jesus not just to the cross, but through it, trusting that beyond sacrifice lies the glory of new life.

*God Bless ~ Fr Gayan.*

### CONTACT US

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**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.



*St Luke's*  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
MARSDEN PARK

### 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

### Second Sunday of Lent Year C

#### First Reading - Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

#### Responsorial Psalm - Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

#### Second Reading - Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful;

the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

#### Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

#### Gospel - Luke 6:39-45

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

## 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).

**Healing Mass** - the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated every First Friday of the month during the 6.30pm Mass.

#### 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.

#### YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday.

Next Meeting: 28th March

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:

18th March 2025



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Last Sunday, after the 10am Mass, the parishioners took part in the Blessing of the Site—the First Stage of our Church Building project. This stage includes the construction of our Parish Hall (with a 200-seating capacity), Parish Office, and Amenities, which we hope to complete in 25 weeks. We are excited to announce that the Turning of the Sod ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 26 March, with Bishop Vincent Long and invited guests. We invite you to continue praying for this important project and to consider how you can be a partner in supporting our Church Building Fund. Your generosity and involvement will help bring this vision to life!

### APPOINTMENT TO THE DIOCESAN INTERFAITH COMMISSION

We are pleased to share that Tessie James, from our Parish has been appointed to the Diocesan Interfaith Commission. Tessie is also a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and looks forward to contributing to this vital work while sharing insights with our parish community along the way. As we promote interfaith dialogue, we invite you to read the Vatican's 2025 Ramadan Message, highlighting peace, solidarity, and friendship. You can access the full message here: Dicastery for [Interreligious Dialogue – 2025 Ramadan Message](#).

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ~ LENTEN PREPARATIONS

As we prepare for Easter, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Saturdays at 4.30pm, Sundays at 9am, and after the weekday Masses on Wednesday and Friday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to experience God's mercy, be reconciled with Him and one another, and enter more fully into the grace of the Easter season.

### TRUTH-TELLING WITH KINCHELA BOYS HOME SURVIVOR UNCLES

Join us at St Luke's Catholic College on March 26, 1pm -2.30pm in the Performance Hall for a powerful truth-telling session with survivor Uncles from Kinchela Boys Home. Hear their stories and stand in solidarity with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Parking: Northbourne Ave Carpark (Gate 6).

### MINISTRY RECRUITMENT DRIVE & MORNING TEA

The Ministry Recruitment Drive will be held on the weekend of 22/23 March, offering a chance for parishioners to get involved in various ministries. Following this, we invite everyone to stay for morning tea and fellowship. Come along to discover how you can serve and connect with our parish community!

### PIETY STALL COMING SOON

We are starting a Piety Stall for our Parish! As we don't have a permanent space yet, the stall will be set up on two small trolleys with basic liturgical items available for purchase. You can also place orders for religious items, and we will arrange to get them for you. Thank you for your support!

### PARISH LENTEN BOOKLETS

We have available a small amount of the Lenten discussion books, which can be used for your personal / family reflection during lent. These are available on the welcome tables outside the performance hall for a donation of \$10.00

## 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:

*Armando Joya (1st death anniversary), Rafael Tiotuico*

Special Intentions:

*8th Birthday ~ Kayelani Oblea.*

## OUR PARISH ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

### JRS AUSTRALIA FOOD BANK

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia supports 150 families every week through our Foodbank. Over the next 6 weeks of Lent, you can support refugees and people seeking asylum by donating these essential items to our parish JRS Lenten Drive!

**Week 1:** Basmati Rice.      **Week 2:** Cooking Oil

**Week 3:** Dried Red Lentils      **Week 4:** Dishwashing Detergent

**Week 5:** Laundry Detergent      **Week 6:** Long Life Milk

Donation buckets will be available from next weekend in the performance hall. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

### PROJECT COMPASSION ~ CARITAS AUSTRALIA

This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

You can support Project Compassion 2025

through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413.

Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.







# 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>	Reconciliation / Penance closes 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Saturday August 2nd 5.30pm or Sunday August 3rd 10am or Saturday August 9th 5.30pm or Sunday August 10th 10am.	Classes Commence 30th July	St Luke's Catholic College 20 <sup>th</sup> August (6pm & 8pm)
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>	First Holy Communion Closes 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Saturday May 24th 5.30pm or Sunday May 25th 10am or Saturday May 31st 5.30pm or Sunday June 1st 10am	Classes Commence from 28th May	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.
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>	Confirmation Closes 20 <sup>th</sup> July	(Saturday August 23rd 5.30pm or Sunday August 24th 10am or Saturday August 30th 5.30pm or Sunday August 31st 10am	Classes Commence from 27 <sup>th</sup> August	St. Luke's Catholic College Friday 24th October, 7pm Mass.

## WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

**Why a homily?**  
The homily is an essential part of the Sunday Mass. The homily, the Scripture readings, the Profession of Faith and the Prayers of the Faithful form a unity which we call the Liturgy of the Word.



The goal of this part of the Mass is to proclaim God's word and to illuminate its meaning and its ramifications for our lives. The homily, therefore, is usually based on a theme arising from the readings or from the particular mystery of faith being celebrated that day.

## PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

St Luke's Youth Group- SAINTS IN TRAINING EASTER FUNDRAISER! Guess How Many Chocolate Eggs Are in the Jar! Hop into the Easter spirit and support our Youth Group! Take a guess at how many chocolate eggs are in the jar for a chance to win the whole jar. **How to Enter:** \$1 per guess or \$2 for for 3 guesses. The closest guess wins the jar filled with chocolate eggs!  
**All proceeds go towards supporting the Saints in Training Youth Group.**  
**This fundraiser will commence next weekend!**

## CFC ~ YOUTH FOR CHRIST CAMP

**CFC- Youth for Christ Camp** – April 4-6, 2025—Camp Fletcher, 69 Alexander Ave, Hazelbrook NSW April 4, (after 6pm) – April 6. Why Join? Faith & Formation – Inspiring talks, praise & worship, and reflections. Friendship & Fun – Games, activities, and bonding moments. Personal Growth – Leadership skills, values, and experiencing God's love. Open to youth turning 12+ in 2025 seeking a Christ-centered life. Let them grow in faith while having fun!  
**For more information please contact 0499 799 193 or ladyvinensig@gmail.com / 0406 783 805 or Ntalam@gmail.com.**

## COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

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**Ph: 1300 010 166**



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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.