

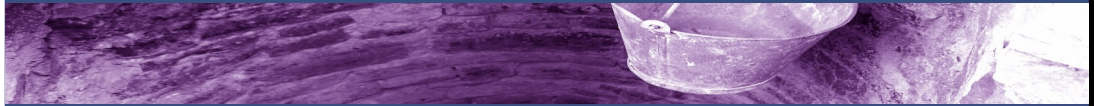


St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK

WEEKLY BULLETIN

23RD MARCH 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C



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

Sunday Reflection



The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is a powerful reminder that we all have a deep thirst—not just for water, but for meaning, love, and fulfillment. The woman comes to the well for water, but Jesus offers her something greater: “living water” that will satisfy her soul forever.

At first, she doesn't understand. She thinks Jesus is talking about physical water, but He is pointing to something deeper. Like her, we often try to quench our inner thirst with things that don't last—success, approval, relationships, or comfort. But these “wells” eventually run dry. Only Jesus can truly satisfy the longing in our hearts. Lent is a time to ask: What am I relying on instead of Christ? What do I need to let go of so I can receive His living water?

Jesus meets the woman in her brokenness. She has made mistakes, feels like an outsider, and tries to avoid the difficult truths about her life. But Jesus does not shame her. Instead, He gently leads her to see that true life comes from knowing Him. He offers her grace, not judgment. This is how Jesus meets us, too. He already knows our struggles and sins, yet He still invites us into a relationship with Him.

This encounter also teaches us that no one is too far from God's love. The woman was surprised that Jesus, a Jew, would speak to her, a Samaritan. But Jesus crosses social and religious barriers to offer her salvation. She is so transformed by His kindness that she leaves her water jar behind and runs to tell others about Him.

This Lent, let's do the same. Let's be honest with Jesus about our struggles and open our hearts to His transforming love. And like the woman, let's share that love with others—through kindness, forgiveness, and an invitation to encounter Christ. May we leave behind our old ways and drink deeply from the life only He can give.

God Bless ~ Fr Gayan.

STAGE 1 CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Last week, we completed site establishment, installed temporary fencing, and carried out surveying works, with sediment control measures now in place.

In the coming weeks, excavation will begin, followed by concrete slab preparation and pouring. Plumbing and electrical installations will also commence as we continue laying the foundation for our new parish home.

A significant milestone is approaching with the Sod Turn event on March 26, and preparations are underway to mark this special occasion. Please keep the project in your prayers and thank you for your ongoing support.



CONTACT US

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Facebook: 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.



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

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

Third Sunday of Lent Year C

Please note we are using Year A readings as we have scrutinies for the catechumens.

First Reading - Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading - Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation - See John 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42 (Shorter Form)

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that

Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY RECRUITMENT DRIVE & MORNING TEA

The Ministry Recruitment Drive will be held this 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!

BUILDING OUR PARISH TOGETHER – JOIN THE PLEDGE

Last weekend, Arvin Joya, our Parish Finance Committee chairperson, shared an update on our parish's journey—from its humble beginnings to completing the first stage of our church building—and the projections for the future second stage. He also invited parishioners to consider becoming pledge donors for the next two years. If you're new to the parish or haven't had a chance to make a pledge yet, we'd love for you to be part of this important effort. Pledge forms are available on the welcome table—we truly appreciate your support in helping build our parish home!

CATECHISM ON THE MASS

Kindly note that the Catechism on the Mass series will be paused in the lead up to Easter to focus on the preparation to Holy Week celebrations. The series will resume after Easter.

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.

PARISH YOUTH GROUP 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 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 this weekend! We are available outside after the 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday and after the 10 AM Mass on Sunday. Winner will be announced after Easter Sunday Mass, Sunday 20th April! Join the fun, support a great cause, and you could take home the ultimate Easter treat! Thank you for your support, and Happy Easter!

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: Saturday Vigil Mass - 5.30pm. Sunday - 10.00am
 Wednesday: Morning Mass - 7.30am (In the Chapel)
 Thursday: Commemoration of the Last Supper - 7.00pm
 Friday: Stations of the Cross 10.00am. Good Friday Service 3.00pm
 Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass - 7.00pm
 Sunday: Easter Sunday Mass - 10.00am

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, 27 April, at 3pm in the Parish Chapel to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited, followed by the Rosary and Benediction. Fr Gayan will also be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time.

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://stlukemarsdenpark.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.

GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL



This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue

Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal, scan this QR code or giving envelopes at the welcome table. Thank you.



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 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: https://forms.gle/qGEWgqRto3bvaz9H9	Reconciliation /Penance closes 29 th 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 th August (6pm & 8pm)
For children 8 or 9 years old who have already been Baptised and made their First Reconciliation Link to Registration Form: https://forms.gle/Riz7ygy1yWTgjd118	First Holy Communion Closes 20 th 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: https://forms.gle/fhs4T4DSDemZhnwJ7	Confirmation Closes 20 th 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 th August	St. Luke's Catholic College Friday 24th October, 7pm Mass.

WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Why do we recite the Profession of Faith?

Why do people pledge allegiance to their national flag? Why do married couples renew their wedding vows? They do so as a public declaration of their commitment to a particular relationship and to ideals which guide their lives. Similarly for Catholics, the profession of faith ('We believe in one God...') is a declaration of commitment. Having listened to God's Word through the readings, we stand and declare our assent to the message proclaimed. Yes! We believe in God. Yes! We belong to this community that professes to live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

TRUTH-TELLING WITH KINCHELA BOYS

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).

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

"The Youth for Christ (Australia) - YFCA is having a Youth Entry Program for youths from Year 8 and above, on April 11-13 (first weekend of the school holidays) in Plumpton. It is run by Catholic youth leaders and couple coordinators. It is full of fun, fellowship, singing, talks, discussions, group activities, prayers, praise and worship. If any students want to strengthen their faith and relationship with Jesus, we would be happy for them to join us in April. For details please contact Ermi Acallar on 0438716510 or Toti Alano 0417785347 or Mariel Alano 0477161105"

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.

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

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