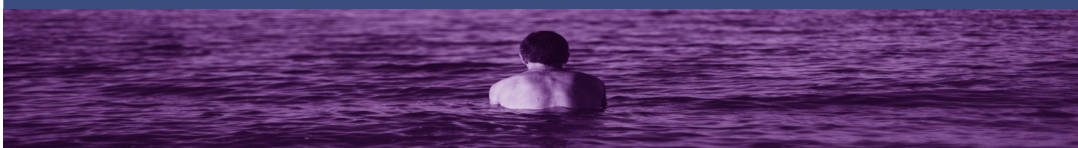




WEEKLY BULLETIN

30TH MARCH 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR ~ C



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

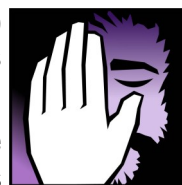
Sunday Reflection

In John 9, Jesus heals a man who was born blind, showing that He is the Light of the World. The disciples ask if the blindness was due to sin, but Jesus corrects them. He explains that suffering is not always a result of personal sin, but can be used by God to display His glory. This teaches us that God's purposes often go beyond our understanding of good and bad. Suffering, when seen through God's eyes, can reveal deeper truths about His nature and His plan for our lives.

The passage also highlights the difference between physical blindness and spiritual blindness. The man's physical sight is restored, but his spiritual sight grows throughout the story. At first, he only knows Jesus as a man, then as a prophet, and finally, he recognizes Jesus as Lord. The Pharisees, however, remain spiritually blind despite their physical sight. Their rejection of Jesus shows that knowing Scripture and following tradition is not enough; recognizing the Messiah requires spiritual openness and humility. The Pharisees were blind because they clung to their own understanding, which kept them from seeing the truth.

This passage reminds us that faith is a process. The blind man's journey from being healed to worshiping Jesus is an image of our own spiritual growth. We may not have all the answers, but our faith deepens as we trust in Jesus. Just as the man testified to what Jesus had done for him, we are called to share our stories of God's work in our lives, even if we don't fully understand everything. Our

faith grows through experience, and each step leads us to a fuller understanding of who Jesus is.



Finally, the story reminds us that God can use suffering to bring glory to Himself. The man's blindness was not a punishment, but a moment for God's power to be revealed. We may face hardships, but instead of asking "Why me?" we can ask, "How is God using this to reveal Himself?"

As you reflect this week, ask yourself: What are the areas in my life where I may be spiritually blind to God's work?

God Bless ~ Fr Gayan.

STAGE 1 CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



SOD TURNING 26TH MARCH 2025. L TO R: ANNETTE & DEACON TONY, BISHOP VINCENT, MAYOR OF BLACKTOWN BRAD BUNTING & FR GAYAN.

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr Gayan Thamel.

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Phone: (02) 8530 0173.

Mobile: 0422 724 160.

Email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Website: stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

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.



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

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

First Reading – E1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation – John 8:1

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel – John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38 (Shorter Form)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God; he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

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: 11th April

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

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NEXT WEEKEND

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS SUNDAY 6TH APRIL, 3AM AEDT Remember to turn back your clocks 1 hour before bed time on Saturday 5th April.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED ~ PARISH I.T. COMMITTEE

As our new parish building is coming up, we need to set up an IT system to support our parish needs, including networking, phone systems, and other IT infrastructure. The Diocese will assist us with this process, but we are looking for parishioners with IT expertise to form a small committee to work alongside the Diocese. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Fr. Gayan.

MINISTRY RECRUITMENT DRIVE

The Parish Ministry Recruitment Drive was held last weekend, offering a chance for parishioners to get involved in various ministries. We had an awesome response with 64 new volunteers registering their interest to serve. Discover how you can serve and connect with our parish community by scanning this QR Code.



BUILDING OUR PARISH TOGETHER – JOIN THE PLEDGE

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 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 continue 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

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!

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 (Please note that this Mass will take place instead of the regular 5.30pm vigil Mass)
 Sunday: Easter Sunday Mass - 10.00am

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:
 Mary Louise Braun Jimenez.

... and those we remember at this time:
 Rafael Tiotuico (1st death anniversary) &
 Arsenio Jamir (20th yr Death Anniversary).

Francisco Angeles.

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/fhs4T4DSDemZhwnJ7	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 have a Prayer of the Faithful?

In these prayers (also called the General Intercessions) the congregation intercedes for all humanity. We pray that the Church will be a life-giving sign of salvation to the world. We pray for Church leaders and public authorities, for those oppressed by various needs, and for all people. In making these petitions we are conscious that the Church exists for others rather than for its own sake. United at the eucharistic table as the body of Christ, we are powerfully equipped to reach out as a loving and liberating force in the world.

GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

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.

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Dominic Gleeson, Principal
Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law)
M: 0431 987 234
www.gleesonlaw.com.au

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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.

We encourage you to support the advertisers that support us. Thank You! Please understand that St Luke's Catholic Parish Marsden Park cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.