



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

## Sunday Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus is led into the desert, where He faces three temptations from the devil. After 40 days of fasting, He is tired, hungry, and alone — just like we can feel during difficult moments in life. This story shows us that temptation is part of every person's journey, but Jesus teaches us how to overcome it.

The first temptation is about comfort. The devil tells Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy His hunger. We all feel this temptation — to look for happiness in food, pleasure, or things that make life easier. But Jesus reminds us that there's a deeper hunger inside us — the hunger for God's love. No amount of money, food, or entertainment will ever fill that space.

The second temptation is about power and success. The devil promises Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He worships him. Sometimes we believe that having more success, popularity, or control will make us happy. But Jesus shows us that true happiness comes when God is at the center of our lives, not the things of this world.

The third temptation is about trusting God. The devil tells Jesus to throw Himself off the temple and test if God will save Him. How often do we want God to prove His love by giving us what we want? But faith means trusting that God loves us, even when life doesn't go our way.

Jesus shows us that the best way to fight temptation is by turning to God's Word. When we're tempted to be selfish, impatient, or doubtful, we can find strength in prayer and the Bible.

This week, let's ask ourselves:

Do I look for happiness in comfort, success, or control?

How can I trust God more in difficult moments?

Lent is a time to let go of the small things that pull us away from God and trust that only His love can truly satisfy us.

Lord, help us to seek You above all things. Give us strength to choose what is right, even when it's hard. Amen.

*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.



### 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.*



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Sunday of Lent Year C

#### First Reading - Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement: "My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

#### Responsorial Psalm - Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

#### Second Reading - Romans 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all be-

long to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

#### Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

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

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

## 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 – Anointing of the Sick

Starting from Friday, 7 March, 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. 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:

18th March 2025



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANK YOU TO THE SISTERS OF MERCY

Our heartfelt gratitude to the Sisters of Mercy, Mount Carmel Convent for their generous donation of the Altar, Lectern, Lectionaries, and many other liturgical items to our Parish. Your kindness and support are a blessing to our growing community, helping us to create a sacred space for worship and prayer.

May God bless the Sisters of Mercy for their spirit of generosity and service.

### CHURCH BUILDING PLEDGE & PROJECT UPDATE

Arvin Joya, the chairperson of the Parish Finance Committee, will provide an update on the church building project and pledge campaign during all Masses on the weekend of 15/16 March. This is a great opportunity to learn about the progress and how you can support the parish's vision. If you are new to the parish or haven't yet made a pledge for the building fund, we invite you to consider how you can be part of this important milestone in our community.

The turning of the soil will occur on Wednesday, 26 March. This is an invited-only event with Bishop Vincent present. Please keep the project in your prayers as we take this important step in the first stage of our church building project.

### MINISTRY RECRUITMENT DRIVE & MORNING TEA

The Ministry Recruitment Drive has been rescheduled to Sunday, 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

### 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.

## HOLY WEEK MINISTRY ROSTERS

We invite our ministry volunteers to indicate their availability to assist in our holy week liturgies.

This weekend there will be sign up sheets outside of the performance hub to register your name for each of the liturgies.

Online registrations will also be available by the following links: <https://shorturl.at/K33ah> Or QR Code



## 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:

*Rafael Tiotuico (1st death anniversary) & Isamel Passigna Sr.*

Special Intentions:

*17th Wedding Anniversary of Mark & Joceny Guillermo.*

## 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](http://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>	<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/Riz7ygv1yWTgjd118">https://forms.gle/Riz7ygv1yWTgjd118</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/fhs4T4DSDemZhwnJ7">https://forms.gle/fhs4T4DSDemZhwnJ7</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?

## YOUTH FOR CHRIST


**Why do we say 'alleluia'?**

*Alleluia* Alleluia comes from the Hebrew word which means 'Praise God'. It appears as a prayer in the Old Testament psalms and as the chant of the saints in heaven in the Book of Revelation. It was adopted by the Christian liturgy as the response of those redeemed through Christ. In the Mass, the alleluia verse is our way of responding to the second reading and preparing for the proclamation of the Gospel. For Christians, 'alleluia' is a bit like a cheer leader's whoop! It reeks of celebration, life, strength, freedom and all those wonderfully liberating qualities offered us through the resurrection of Jesus. To mutter it is to contradict its meaning!

"The Youth for Christ (Australia) - YFCA is having a Youth Entry Program for youths from Year 8 and above, on April 11-13 (first week-end 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"



## COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

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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.