

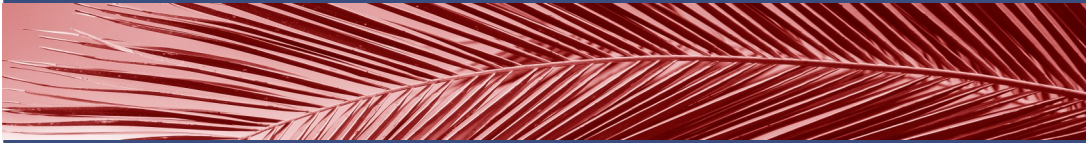


St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK

WEEKLY BULLETIN

13TH APRIL 2025

PALM SUNDAY YEAR ~ C



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

Sunday Reflection

This Sunday, as we listen to the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke, we are invited into the depths of God's love and the brokenness of our world. Luke's account is rich in emotion and detail, but one striking aspect is how Jesus remains calm, composed, and compassionate, even as He is betrayed, denied, mocked, and crucified.

What stands out in this Gospel is not only the suffering Jesus endures, but how He responds to it. While others give in to fear, anger, or confusion, Jesus forgives, consoles, and prays. He tells Peter, even before the denial, that he is already praying for him. He heals the ear of a man who came to arrest Him. He offers paradise to a criminal beside Him on the cross. In the face of hatred, He chooses mercy. In the face of injustice, He does not retaliate. This is strength—not the power to strike back, but the courage to love.

At the heart of the Passion is a deep truth: Jesus doesn't just suffer for us, He suffers with us. He enters into the worst parts of human experience—abandonment, betrayal, injustice, pain—and transforms them with His love. The cross shows us a God who doesn't just send help from a distance, but who comes to carry the weight with us.

This challenges us to reflect on how we respond to suffering in our own lives. Do we lash out, close off, or give in to despair? Or can

we, like Jesus, choose to forgive, to stay present, and to love even when it hurts? The Passion invites us not to admire Jesus from afar, but to follow Him—to live with the same compassion, courage, and self-giving love.



In a world that often rewards power and control, Jesus shows a different way: the power of sacrificial love. And through His cross, He not only saves us, but reshapes how we live, love, and hope.

God Bless ~ Fr Gayan.

STAGE 1 CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



Placing of the frame.

CONTACT US

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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

Palm Sunday ~ Year C

First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading - Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation - Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel - Luke 23:1-4 (Shorter Form)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. The elders of the people and the chief priests and scribes rose, and they brought Jesus before Pilate. They began their accusation by saying, 'We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.' Pilate put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'It is you who say it' he replied. Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no case against this man.' But they persisted, 'He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judaea; it has come all the way from Galilee, where he started, down to here.' When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man were a Galilean; and finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction he passed him over to Herod who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Herod was delighted to see Jesus; he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him; moreover, he was hoping to see some miracle worked by him. So he questioned him at some length; but without getting any reply. Meanwhile the chief priests and the scribes were there, violently pressing their accusations. Then Herod, together with his guards, treated him with contempt and made fun of him; he put a rich cloak on him and sent him back to Pilate. And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before, they were reconciled that same day. Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leading men and the people. 'You brought this man before me' he said 'as a political agitator. Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case against the man

in respect of all the charges you bring against him. Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us. As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserves death, so I shall have him flogged and then let him go.' But as one man they howled, 'Away with him! Give us Barabbas!' (This man had been thrown into prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder.) Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again, but they shouted back, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' And for the third time he spoke to them, 'Why? What harm has this man done? I have found no case against him that deserves death, so I shall have him punished and then let him go.' But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices, demanding that he should be crucified. And their shouts were growing louder. Pilate then gave his verdict: their demand was to be granted. He released the man they asked for, who had been imprisoned for rioting and murder, and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased. As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus. Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days will surely come when people will say, "Happy are those who are barren, the wombs that have never borne, the breasts that have never suckled!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"; to the hills, "Cover us!" For if men use the green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?' Now with him they were also leading out two other criminals to be executed. When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified him there and the two criminals also, one on the right, the other on the left. Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.' Then they cast lots to share out his clothing. The people stayed there watching him. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it; we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.' It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' With these words he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he gave praise to God and said, 'This was a great and good man.' And when all the people who had gathered for the spectacle saw what had happened, they went home beating their breasts. All his friends stood at a distance; so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee, and they saw all this happen. believed in him.

OUR PARISH ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

JRS AUSTRALIA FOOD BANK

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia supports 150 families every week through our Foodbank. Over the weeks during Lent, you can support refugees and people seeking asylum by donating these essential items to our parish JRS Lenten Drive! **Week 6:** Long Life Milk Donation buckets will be available from n in the performance hall. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

PROJECT COMPASSION ~ CARITAS AUSTRALIA

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 Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion Or by calling: 1800 024 413.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK AVAILABLE ~ The latest edition of Catholic Outlook is now available. Please pick up a free copy from the welcome table at the entrance to the Performance Hall.

EASTER VIGIL MASS- CANDLES ~ Due to the school's smoke alarm system, we will be using battery-operated candles for the Easter Vigil Mass. Please bring your own battery-operated candle, or you can purchase one for \$2 from the piety stall.

CATHOLIC YOUTH PARRAMATTA ~ GOOD FRIDAY WALK

CYP is holding its annual Good Friday walk from St. Patrick's Blacktown to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Our parish is organising a group from St. Luke's to participate. If you wish to join the St. Luke's group please contact Aleta - 0425 082 607. For further information and to register for the event please log on to the following website: <https://parracatholic.org/events/gfnw/>

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: Saturday Vigil Mass - 5.30pm. Sunday - 10.00am

Wednesday: Morning Mass - 7.30am (In the Chapel)

Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7.00pm Altar of Repose until 10.30pm

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

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.

ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE ~ ANZAC Remembrance will be commemorated at the end of all Masses on the weekend of 26/27 April. We will pause to honour the service and sacrifice of all who have served our country in times of war and peace.

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 & Dahlia Wingco 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.



Please bring back your Project Compassion Boxes or envelopes!



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. As the school term is ending, children's liturgy will return 3rd & 4th May after this weekend.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday.

Next Meeting: TBC

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.



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



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/Riz7ygy1yWTgid118	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 shake hands?

Before receiving communion, the celebrant invites the congregation to 'offer one another a sign of peace', usually in the form of a hand-shake, smile or embrace. By this action we affirm our relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a genuine sign of reconciliation that prepares us for the profound act of intimacy which is signified when we share at the one eucharistic table. So, you see, the sign of peace is more than a 'nice' thing to do. It is an expression of the bond that unites us as Christians. Think about it next time you offer this sign. Please. No 'dead-fish' handshakes! Extend your hand with warmth and conviction.

WEEKEND FOOD STALL ~ THANK YOU!

WEEKEND FOOD STALL
ACCEPTING CASH & CARD PAYMENTS

SOLD OUT!!!

SAT & SUN MENU
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS OUR CHURCH BUILDING FUND

We are deeply grateful for the incredible support we received at last week's Weekend Food Stall. Thanks to your generosity, we raised nearly \$1,200 toward the construction of our future Church building! A heartfelt thank you to our amazing food donors — Vivian from Cocoa Vanilla Cakes, Deanne, and Soc — for their delicious contributions. Your kindness and support continue to bring our Church community closer together and closer to our goal.

COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

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.

Advertise HERE

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

At Gold Disability Services, we are dedicated to empowering individuals with diverse needs. Our passion is to provide personalized support that helps you achieve your unique NDIS goals, whether that's increasing independence, engaging with your community, or pursuing other aspirations. By partnering with us, you can trust that you'll receive customized support that honors your individuality and fosters meaningful progress toward your goals.

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

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