



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

Sunday Reflection

The raising of Lazarus is not just a miracle but a powerful revelation of who Jesus is and how He responds to suffering. At first glance, Jesus' delay seems puzzling. When He hears of Lazarus' illness, He does not rush to heal him but stays two more days. This delay is not neglect but intentional—Jesus wants to reveal something greater than mere physical healing. He says, "This illness does not lead to death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4).

When Jesus finally arrives, both Martha and Mary confront Him with the same statement: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." This expresses the universal human cry—why didn't God act sooner? Why does He allow suffering? Jesus does not dismiss their grief. Instead, He enters into it. He weeps, not because He is powerless but because He deeply loves. This moment shows that the Christian faith does not minimize suffering or call people to suppress their emotions. Jesus, the very Son of God, mourns with those who mourn.

Yet Jesus also challenges Martha's understanding. She believes in a distant resurrection at the end of time, but Jesus tells her, "I am the resurrection and the life." Resurrection is not just a future event—it is a person. In raising Lazarus, Jesus gives a sign of what He will accomplish through His own death and resurrection.

But unlike Lazarus, who would eventually die again, Jesus' resurrection would bring eternal life to all who believe.



This passage speaks to those who are waiting on God, struggling with His timing. It assures us that His delays are not indifference but love. It also reminds us that Christianity offers both truth and tears—Jesus is the resurrection and the life, but He is also the one who weeps with us. When we face loss, we do so knowing that Jesus stands beside us in our sorrow and has the power to bring life where there was once death.

God Bless ~ Fr Gayan.

STAGE 1 CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

POURING OF THE SLAB.



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.



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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

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

First Reading - Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading - Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation - See John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45 (Shorter Form)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to

the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea. On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in 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. As the school term is ending, children's liturgy will return 3rd & 4th May after this weekend.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday.

Next Meeting: 11th April

All enquiries please email Parish Office.

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

WORDS OF GRATITUDE ~Thank you to everyone who helps in so many ways to support the work and life of our Parish. Whether you assist with preparations, lend a hand in organizing, or take on any other task, your efforts are invaluable. We are truly grateful for your time, dedication, and all that you do to help keep things running smoothly. May God's blessings be upon you, filling your hearts with peace and joy as you continue your important work in His service.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

FEDERAL ELECTION: A GUIDE FOR CATHOLIC VOTERS~ As the election approaches, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) offers a guide to help Catholics reflect on key issues such as human dignity, justice, religious freedom, and stewardship. While the Church remains politically nonpartisan, we encourage voters to assess policies through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching.

For more information, visit the ACNC website or read the ACBC Statement.

<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Election-Statement-2025>

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.

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/Riz7ygv1yWTgjd118	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?

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Having been nourished through the scripture readings at the Liturgy of the Word, we turn to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At this part of the Mass, the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar and we begin the Eucharistic Prayer which is one of the most ancient prayers from our tradition. We ask the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. We also ask that, in receiving Jesus, the entire assembly will be transformed as the body of Christ. By re-enacting the eucharistic words and actions of Jesus we remember and live anew the great events of his death and resurrection.

WEEKEND FOOD STALL

WEEKEND FOOD STALL
ACCEPTING CASH & CARD PAYMENTS

- CHICKEN BIRYANI \$20 BOX
- CHICKEN TANDOORI \$20 BOX
- BROWNIES & CHIFFON CAKES \$2/\$3 EACH
- BRAZO DE MERCEDES \$10 BOX
- MAJA MAIS (CORN PUDDING) \$10 BOX
- CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE \$4 EACH

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

Due to popular demand, the Weekend Food Stall is back for a limited time this April. Indulge in our bestsellers—Chicken Biryani and Tandoori—alongside crowd favourites like brownies, chiffon cakes, maja mais, and Brazo Mercedes. Plus, don't miss our new addition: irresistible chocolate cupcakes! Hurry and grab your favourites before we fast in preparation for the Holy Week. All proceeds go towards our future permanent Church building!

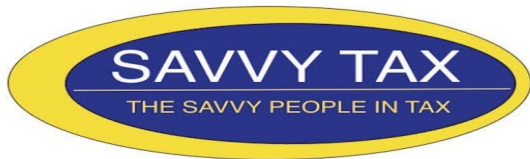
COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

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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