



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

17TH AUGUST 2025

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C



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

Sunday Reflection

In Luke 12:49–53, Jesus says He came to bring fire to the earth. That might sound harsh, but the fire He's talking about isn't meant to destroy—it's meant to purify and transform. In the Bible, fire often represents God's holiness and power. It burns away what is false and harmful, leaving behind what is true and good. Jesus came to start that fire through His life, death, and resurrection, and once it's lit, nothing stays the same.

He then talks about a "baptism" He must go through. This isn't about water—it's about His coming suffering on the cross. For the fire of God's kingdom to be kindled, Jesus would have to take on the judgment we deserve. This was not an easy thing for Him to face. You can feel His urgency—He knows what is coming, and He's determined to go through with it because it's the only way for the world to be made new and for people to be reconciled to God.

Then He says something surprising: He didn't come to bring peace, but division. That sounds strange, because we often think of Jesus as the Prince of Peace. But the peace He offers is not just about getting along or avoiding conflict. It's the deep peace

of being made right with God. That kind of peace comes only when we put Him first, and not everyone is willing to do that. When some choose to follow Him and others don't, it can create tension—even within the closest relationships and families.

This means following Jesus isn't just adding Him into an already comfortable life. It changes our priorities, challenges our loyalties, and sometimes costs us relationships. He comes into our lives like fire—not to harm us, but to refine us, to make us new, and to burn away our self-reliance and false hopes.

The truth is, His fire often unsettles us before it comforts us. But if we allow it to do its work, we'll discover a deeper peace than we could ever find on our own—a peace that endures because it is built on being fully reconciled to God. That's the fire Jesus came to bring, and it changes everything.



God Bless ~ Fr. Gayan Thamel.

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

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
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MARSDEN PARK

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Entrance Antiphon: **Psalm 83:10-11**~ Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading - Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10 ~ The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

R) Lord, come to my aid!

Second Reading - Hebrews 12:1-4~ With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and

keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

Gospel Acclamation (John 10:27)~Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 12:49-53~ Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 129:7~ With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

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: 8.00am & 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).

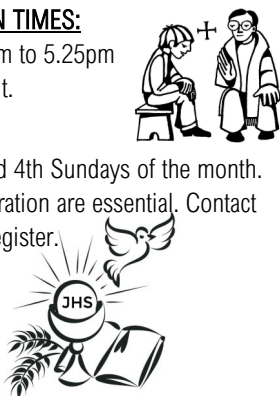
Healing Mass - the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated every First Friday of the month during the 6.30pm Mass.

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. (Kindy to Year 4)

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday. 7pm in the St Luke's Hub. Next leaders only meeting: 22nd August. Next Youth Program: 29th August. For students in Year 4 to Year 12. 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. 14th September

WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund. NEXT FOODSTALL: THIS WEEKEND August 16th & 17th

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.

WALKING WITH CHRIST:

Fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Parish Office. Next session: 28th August. Looking for space to grow in faith, explore Scripture, and walk with others in our parish community? Come and join us! For more information, email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXCITING NEWS! ~ We've received the Occupation Certificate, and the temporary fences are down—our new church building is ready! A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. Please mark your calendars for 19 October, the Feast of St Luke, our patron, when we will celebrate the official opening and blessing of our new church building. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Mass at the marketplace and lead the special ceremony. Stay tuned for more details!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY ~ LUKE 18!

We're excited to announce the launch of our new youth group - Luke 18! Our name comes from Jesus' words: "Let the children come to me" (Luke 18:16) - a reminder that we're called to live with a childlike faith and that there's a place for everyone in God's crew.

Our very first youth night will be on Friday, 29th August.

We'll begin with 6:30pm Mass at the chapel next to the parish office followed by an evening of games, snacks, music, and great company from 7:00pm to 9:30pm at the Hub at St Luke's Catholic College.

This is open to all teens ages 11-18 who want to connect, have fun, and grow in faith together. Bring your friends, bring your energy - we'll bring the snacks! Luke 18 Youth Group – Faith, Fun, Games & Snacks.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION ~ The Sacrament will be celebrated this Wednesday, 20 August from 6pm-8pm. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION 2025 ~ The Sacrament of Confirmation lessons will begin on Wednesday, 27 August at 6pm at The Hub, St Luke's Catholic College. The Enrolment Masses for children and parents will take place during all Masses on the weekends of 23/24 August and 30/31 August. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN 2025-2027 ~ The Parish Pastoral Plan for 2025-2027 is now published on our parish website. We invite all parishioners to view it online and discover our shared direction and focus for the years ahead.

FATHER'S DAY VIDEO ~ The parish is putting together a Father's Day Video. We kindly invite families to email a photo of their Father's to feature in this video by 31st August. marsdenpark@parracatholic.org Please ensure the name of the Dad pictured is also included.

JOIN THE WELCOMERS MINISTRY ~ We're looking for volunteers to assist at the: Saturday 5:30pm Mass, Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am Masses. If you can help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the welcome table. Your support is greatly appreciated!

PIETY STALL – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ~ If you are able to help look after the piety stall after our Masses, please write your name on the sign-up sheet. The parish will handle all ordering—you just need to look after the stall after Mass.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR SACRAMENTAL TEAM ~ The Parish is seeking for volunteers to be part of the sacramental team. This team will assist in delivering the sacramental process of Parish. If you are interested in joining or finding out more information please contact the parish office. Email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

OCIA: WELCOMING NEW FACES TO THE FAITH

The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) – formerly known as RCIA – will soon begin at St Luke's Parish. This is a time of grace and transformation for those who are seeking to become Catholic or wish to complete their sacraments of initiation. We encourage all parishioners to remain watchful and welcoming toward those who may be quietly searching for faith, unsure of how to begin, or hoping for support on their spiritual journey. A kind invitation, an offer to accompany them, or a simple conversation could be the encouragement they need.

To express interest or find out more, please contact our parish office:

Email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Phone: (02) 8530 0173 or Mobile: 0422 724 160

Let's journey together in faith and love—and continue to be a community of compassion and welcome.

FR GAYAN'S ANNUAL LEAVE ~ Fr Gayan will be on annual leave from 1–23 September and 3–10 November. During his absence, Fr John Boyle and Fr Zvonimir will celebrate weekend Masses in the parish. Please note there will be no Wednesday Mass, but Fr Treesen will celebrate Friday 6.30pm Mass in the chapel.

PARISH OFFICE UPDATE ~ We welcome Gerald "Ged" Oblea as our full-time Parish Secretary starting 1st September 2025. Office hours will be Monday to Friday, 9:30am–4:30pm. Until we move into the new building, Ged will continue working from the demountable marked "Parish Office".

GIFTS FOR OUR NEW CHURCH BUILDING ~ We extend our heartfelt thanks to the generous parishioners who have contributed towards the purchase of two statues — Our Lady and St Luke — for the new church building, along with sacred vessels and liturgical vestments.



COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

We pray for those in our Community who are sick:
Tony Yu; Rena Cremutus & Bernardo Quintana.

Recently Deceased: Mariel Abadejos; Dahlia Wingco,
Lawrence Monteiro, Randolph Gunasekara, Anula Rupasingh,
Fr. Tim Hogan, Daisy Pangilinan & Maria Exposto

We Remember: Oliver Soares; Joseph Menezes; Teresea Da Silva;
Anthony Xuereb; Victor & Margaret Muscat; Tereza & Charlie Xuereb
David Edmunds, Patty Mallari, Michael Machado,
Teresita Mendoza; Belen Tiotuico & Joseph Stanislaus.

Death Anniversary: Jose Mayang (7th Year)

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.

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Why ashes?

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality and symbolize the spirit of penance that marks the Lenten season. Ashes were commonly used in ancient religions (including Judaism) as an expression of sorrow. In the early Church, Jewish converts introduced a similar practice into the Christian liturgy. By being marked with ashes, a Catholic today is recognized by the community gathered as one who has chosen to repent of sin and believe in the Good News. A sign to be worn with conviction!

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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 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.

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 donation portal through the CBA at
<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISH1>

Your donations are greatly appreciated. SUPPORT DONATIONS
BSB: 067 950 Account: 100005720
Account Name: Marsden Park St Luke's Parish
Reference: (Your name)



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St Luke's
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WEEKEND FOOD STALL MENU

SAVOURY

CHICKEN BIRYANI - \$20
BUTTERSCOTCH SQUARES - \$2
CASSAVA CAKE - \$12
LIGHT
BBQ PORK BUN/ SIOPAO \$10/4PCS
DUMSUM \$10/4PCS
CHIFFON CAKES - \$3
CASHEW BARS - \$3
CASH/CARD ACCEPTED

St Luke's Weekend Food Stall is Back! 16 & 17 August 2025. After the Saturday 5:30 PM Mass & Sunday 10:00 AM Mass
We're back after our July break and ready to serve you some delicious favourites!
Come hungry and support a great cause!

ADVERTISE
HERE

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.
marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

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.



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Get in touch.

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