



WEEKLY BULLETIN

24TH AUGUST 2025

TWENTY ~ FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C



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

Sunday Reflection

In today's Gospel (Luke 13:22-30), Jesus is asked a simple but unsettling question: "Lord, will only a few be saved?" Instead of giving a number, He turns the focus back on the person asking. "Strive to enter through the narrow door," He says.

That word strive is strong. It suggests effort, persistence, even struggle. Jesus is not saying salvation is earned by our hard work, but He is reminding us that following Him is not a casual or automatic thing. Faith is more than a label or tradition—it is a living relationship that shapes how we live, think, and love.

The image of the narrow door is powerful. A wide gate is easy to pass through—you don't need to think about what you're carrying. But a narrow one forces you to leave things behind. To enter God's kingdom, we cannot cling to pride, bitterness, self-sufficiency, or the idea that we can make it on our own terms. The narrow way is the way of humility, repentance, and trust in Christ.

Jesus also warns that there will be some who thought they were close to Him but find themselves outside, saying, "We ate and drank with you." Proximity is not the same as discipleship. Simp-

ly being around religion, attending services, or knowing the right words is not the same as giving Him our hearts. What matters is whether His life is truly shaping ours.

Yet this passage is not meant to crush us with fear. The narrow door is open. It is open to people from east and west, north and south—people of every culture and background. The kingdom is far more expansive than we imagine, and God's welcome is wider than our own hearts often allow.

The challenge, then, is personal. Instead of speculating about numbers or others, Jesus asks each of us: Have you entered through the door? Are you letting go of what cannot pass through? The invitation is urgent, but it is also filled with hope. For the One who calls us to strive is the same One who carries us through, if only we will let Him.



God Bless ~ Fr. Gayan Thamel.

CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr Gayan Thamel.

Email: gayan.thamel@parracatholic.org

Administration Assistant: Gerald "Ged" Oblea (Thurs & Fri)

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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 85:1-3 ~ Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading - Isaiah 66:18-21 ~ The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

R) Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Second Reading - Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 ~ Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness.

So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

Gospel Acclamation (John 14:6)~Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 13:22-30 ~ Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed. 'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!" 'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

Communion Antiphon: Cf Psalm 103:13-15 ~ The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

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: 12th September. 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



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK

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: August 30th & 31st

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

CALLING ALL CREATIVE KIDS ~ We invite all children to join the art competition for the opening of St Luke's Church Building. This is a special chance to share your creativity and be part of a historic day for our parish. The winning artwork will be printed on a bookmark to keep as a memory for everyone. **Theme:** St Luke **Sheets available:** 30/31 August **Closing date:** 19th September (entries to be placed in the drop box) Your artwork will help make this day one to remember for years to come.

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 ~ A heartfelt thank you to Julie Atkins and Ged Oblea who facilitated the preparation sessions for the children who celebrated their First Sacrament of Reconciliation last week. We are also grateful to the Sacramental Support Team for their generous help during the Enrolment Masses and on the day itself. Your dedication and support are deeply appreciated.

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.

REQUEST FOR TV MONITORS~ As we continue to equip our new church building, we are looking to purchase two new 80-inch TV monitors. These monitors will be an important part of enhancing our liturgies, presentations, and community events. If anyone is able to assist with sourcing, donating, or contributing towards these monitors, your support would be greatly appreciated. Any assistance, big or small, will make a difference. Please contact the parish office for more information.

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. During this time, Fr Zonvmire will celebrate Mass on the weekend of 6/7 September. On the following weekends, 13/14 September and 20/21 September, Mass will be celebrated by Fr John Boyle. Please note that there will be no Wednesday Mass while Fr Gayan is away, and the Friday 6.30pm Mass will be celebrated by Fr Treesen.

SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION APPOINTMENT ~ Felicita Fernando has been appointed as the Safeguarding Champion of our parish. In this role, she will work closely with the Diocese of Parramatta and Ged from our parish office to coordinate safeguarding activities, ensure proper procedures are followed, and support the parish in maintaining compliance with safeguarding requirements. We thank her for taking on this important ministry and for her commitment to serving our parish.

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.

We Remember: David Edmunds, Patty Mallari, Michael Machado, Teresita Mendoza; Belen Tiotuico & Joseph Stanislaus.

Death Anniversary: Amado P Jovellana (1st 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?

The Cross.... Is the cross you wear around your neck just an attractive piece of jewelry to you? Have you ever pondered the startling paradox of this symbol? After all, in Jesus' day the cross was an instrument of execution. Translated into modern terms, it's a bit like wearing a miniature electric chair around your neck! The repugnance of such an idea highlights the radical edge of the Gospel. Jesus' life led to suffering, loss, failure and even death. Yet it was precisely through such self-sacrifice that the resurrection was possible. As Christians we are called to life by walking the way of the cross. Not a religion for the faint-hearted!

© The Story Source, 1993.



Sacramental Process 2025



Available for	Enrolment closing Date	Enrolment Mass Dates	Weekly Groups Begin	Ceremonies
For children 10 years old who have already been Baptised and made their First Reconciliation & First Eucharist. Link to Registration Form: https://forms.gle/fhs4T4DSDemZhnj7	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 27th 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)

AN ALTERNATIVE TO OUR TAP DEVICES



THANK YOU!

Thank You for Your Incredible Support! our heartfelt thanks to all the generous food donors, specially the Sri Lankan Catholic Group, dedicated fundraising volunteers, and wonderful parishioners who supported last week's Weekend Food Stall. Thanks to your kindness, we raised over \$1,500 weekend!

COMMUNITY SPONSORED DIRECTORY

proudly sponsoring the event

RED & BLUE Home Loan

NEEDHUNGEL
0402389371

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH US

Connect With Us
readandbluehomedloan
www.readandbluehomedloan.com.au
info@readandbluehomedloan.com.au

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.



Kav Prasad

Sales Executive

0423 046 793
Shop 35/111 Railway Terrace, Schofields NSW 2762
Schofields.ljhooker.com.au



LJ Hooker

**YOUR FRIENDLY PARTNER
IN ACCOUNTING & TAXATION**

hipolito

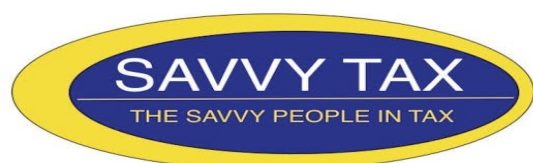
Accounting & Taxation Services

Our services.

- Tax Accounting
- Bookkeeping
- Payroll Processing
- Individual & Company Tax
- SMSF Tax
- Trust & Partnership Tax

Get in touch.

- E: randy@hipolito.com.au
- M: 0423 110 580
- www.hipolito.com.au



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>