



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

30TH NOVEMBER 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



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

Sunday Reflection....

As we begin the first week of Advent, today's Gospel reminds us that the coming of the Son of Man will happen unexpectedly, just like in the days of Noah. Life often feels normal and predictable, and it's easy to think we have plenty of time to prepare for what really matters. But this passage asks us to pay attention—to live with awareness of God and what He wants for our lives. It reminds us that the future is not entirely in our control, and we cannot put off preparing our hearts. Advent calls us to live intentionally, staying ready for God's coming at any moment.

The story of Noah isn't just about a flood long ago; it is a mirror for our own lives. People were eating, drinking, marrying, and going about their usual routines, not knowing that everything could change suddenly. This shows us how easily we can be caught up in daily routines and forget to live with purpose. We are challenged to live with readiness, not out of fear, but by focusing on God, our relationships, and the life we are building each day. How we spend our time, the values we embrace, and the choices we make all shape whether we are truly ready to welcome God when He comes.

Being ready means noticing God in the ordinary moments of life—at work, at meals with family, while traveling, or in conversations with friends and neighbors. It means acting with honesty, kindness, and love, even when no one is watching. True preparedness is not about completing a list of rules or tasks; it is measured by how faithfully we live and how much love we show. Advent

invites us to stay alert, to live with hearts open to God, ready to welcome Him whether in quiet, small ways or in moments that change everything.

This week, the message is simple: live with attention, love intentionally, and make daily choices that reflect hope and faith. We cannot predict the future, but we can live each day as if God could arrive at any moment. When we do, our lives shaped by faith and love will make us ready to meet Him with joy and confidence.

God Bless, Fr. Gayan Thamel

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

All Christmas Masses and the New Year Mass will be celebrated in the Performance Hall at St Luke's Catholic College.

Christmas Eve: 24th December – 7:00 pm & 11:30 pm

Christmas Day: 25th December – 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Weekend Masses: 27th & 28th December – usual times

New Year's Day: 1st January – 9:30 am



Parish Office Christmas Closure—from the 24th December afternoon, re-opens 5th January 2026.

CONTACT US

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Email: marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Website: stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark

Address: 55A Frontier Ave, Marsden Park

Postal Address: PO Box 4045, Elara Village, MARSDEN PARK NSW 2765.

Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm - 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



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Sunday of Advent Year A

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 24:1-3 ~ To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5 ~ The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm - Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 13:11-14 ~ You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon –

let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation - Psalm 84:8 ~ Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 24:37-44 ~ Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Communion Antiphon - Psalm 84:13 ~ The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

PARISH MASS TIMES:

All Mass celebrated at our new worship space
55A Frontier Ave, Marsden Park.

Weekday Mass Times:

Wednesday 7.30am

Friday 6.30pm

Sunday Mass Times:

Saturday: Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

Sunday: 8.00am & 10.00am



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 OCIA - Order 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).

Currently postponed.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday. 7pm in the St Luke's Hub.

Next Youth Program: 19th December.

6.30pm to 9.00pm

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

PRAYER MINISTRY:

1st weekend every 2nd month.

Next opportunity: December 6th & 7th.

Whether you need guidance, support, or simply someone to pray with, feel free to come forward after Mass and let us join you in prayer.



MORNING TEA:

Every 2nd Sunday after 10.00am Mass.

Recommencing in 2026.

WEEKEND FOOD STALL:

Proceeds of this fundraising activity goes towards the parish building fund.

Recommencing in 2026.

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: 4th December with our Advent Reflection program. 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

WELCOME FR CHINONYE TO OUR PARISH ~ We warmly welcome Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu (Fr Chinonye) to our parish community. He will celebrate Mass on a rostered basis, sharing the weekend Masses in rotation with Fr Gayan. His first Masses in the parish will be the 5.30pm on Sat 13 December and 5.30pm on Sunday 14 December. We look forward to his presence and ministry among us.

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM ~ We are forming a pastoral care ministry team in the parish to take Holy Communion and offer prayerful support to our nursing home residents and those who are housebound. Parishioners who feel called to this ministry are invited to a meeting after the 10am Mass on Sunday, 7 December.

NO 6.30PM MASS – FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER ~ There will be no 6.30pm Mass on Friday, 5 December due to St Luke's Christmas Carols.

PARISH SURVEY – MASS TIMES ~ Thank you to all the families and individuals who participated in our Mass survey last week. We had 323 respondents. As a result of the survey it is clear that an additional Mass will be well attended elevating the capacity of our 10.00am by a least 30% to attend a Sunday Mass at 5.30pm. Based on these results we are planning to commence a Sunday 5.30pm Mass from the 14th December. If you are able to serve at this Mass time we invite you to write your name on the sign up sheet on the welcome table.

TEMPORARY PAUSE ON CHILDREN'S LITURGY ~ Children's Liturgy will be paused for the time being while we work towards adding an additional Mass, which will free up a suitable space for the children to gather safely and comfortably. We appreciate your patience and support as we find a location close to the Church that keeps our children safe and is easy for families to access. We look forward to welcoming the children back to Children's Liturgy as soon as possible.

ADVENT PROGRAMME ~ As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour, we warmly invite you to join our Advent programme. Each week, we will reflect on the Sunday Gospel and share in a group discussion. When: Thursday, 4th December, 7pm. Where: Old Parish Office. Advent programme booklets will be available next week or at the first session for \$10 each.

All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR AGED CARE RESIDENTS ~ If you have any old Christmas cards, please bring them to the church or leave them at the parish office. The students from St Luke's Catholic College will be using them to create new Christmas cards for the residents at Marsden Park Care Community. There are about 147 residents, and this is a lovely way to share some Christmas cheer with them.

ST LUKE'S CAROLS & RAFFLE DRAW 2025 ~ Planning to join us at the St Luke's Carols? Make the night even smoother by pre-ordering your food! Skip the queue and enjoy more time soaking in the festive vibes by ordering ahead through our online menu.

Simply place your pre-order online via the QR code or payment link, then head straight to the Pre-Order Queue at the Hundred Acre Woods (next to the Kindy Space) in the St Luke's Catholic College Marketplace. Your meal will be ready and waiting — easy, fast, and stress-free!

Let's make this Carols night magical, memorable, and delicious.

Please note that online pre-ordering closes on COB Wednesday, 3 December 2025 so we can prepare and process all orders efficiently- so don't miss out Pre-order now and beat the rush!

To buy your Carols Raffle Tickets: <https://square.link/u/79Fm7TrS>

To buy your Carols Food and Drinks:

<http://st-lukes-christmas-carols-2025-marsden-park.square.site/>

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

We pray for those in our Community who are sick:

Annabelle Edwards; Amor Matulac; Tony Yu; Rena Cremutus & Bernardo Quintana.

Recently Deceased: Marguerite Bru, Robert Manlilic, Carmelita Del Rosario, Aurora Borgonia, Grace Pinacate Roa.

November is traditionally the month in which we remember our deceased family members and friends. You are invited to write the names of your loved ones in the book of remembrance. During November only the names of recently deceased will be published in the parish bulletin.

May They Rest In Peace

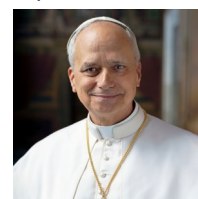
If you would like to include the name of a loved one who is sick or recently deceased in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office.

marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Part IV. Signs & Sacraments ~ Why do Catholics have a Pope?

In any organization, community or family, there is usually somebody whose presence gives the group cohesion and direction. This person might exert such influence in a specified role such as the managing director of a company, or less formally, as a parent around whom family activities revolve. For Catholics, the Pope fulfils a unique role as a sign



and guardian of the unity of our faith community. The title 'Pope' comes from the Greek 'papas' and Latin 'papa' meaning 'father'. As the bishop of Rome and the successor of St Peter, he is regarded as the representative of Christ the Good Shepherd. The Pope's role implies a relationship of love with Christ and his people. © The Story Source, 1993.

STEWARDSHIP: PARISH DONATIONS

PARISH STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PLANNED GIVING ~ As shared by our Pastoral Finance Committee Chair, Arvin Joya, our parish will soon be facing financial challenges that require our collective support to overcome. Your thoughtful contributions through planned giving can make a significant difference, helping us move from financial strain to a sustainable surplus. This will allow us to continue our vital ministries, maintain our sacred spaces, and serve those in need. Please prayerfully consider setting up a recurring gift or increasing your weekly offering. Together, we can build a stronger financial foundation for our parish's future. For more information on how to start planned giving, please contact the parish office. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

RETURN TO TWO-COLLECTION METHOD AT MASS ~ We are excited to announce a change in our weekly collection method as we prepare to celebrate Mass at our new church on the weekend of October 25-26, 2025. Moving forward, we will return to the traditional practice of two separate collections during Mass. Currently, our single collection allocates 70% to our Parish's operational expenses and 30% to the Diocese to support the living costs of our Clergy. With the new method, the first

collection will be dedicated entirely to the Diocese for the support of our Clergy's living costs, and the second collection will be devoted to the operational expenses of our Parish. This return to the traditional two-collection method aligns with our commitment to transparently support both our Parish community and the needs of our Clergy. We thank you for your continued generosity and support as we transition into this new chapter at our new church.

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](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISH1)

You 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.

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