



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARDEN PARK

DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

1ST FEBRUARY 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



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

Sunday Connection....

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favored. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God. © 2026 Loyola Press. All rights reserved.

Family Connection....

Today's Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the "get ahead" messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, having many possessions, and so on. When we think this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. The crowd that day also associated happiness with material possessions and status.

Talk as a family about what it means to be happy or to be blessed. Make a list of traits that you would associate with a happy person. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12a. Reflect on Jesus' description of happiness. Think about what each of the Beatitudes might have in common and write a family summary of the Beatitudes. Post the summary in a special place as a reminder of what your family will consider "true happiness."

Conclude by praying together prayers of petition based on the Beatitudes, e.g., "We pray that we will be peacemakers who seek to get along with other people even when this is difficult. We pray to the Lord." All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer." © 2026 Loyola Press. All rights reserved.



CONTACT US

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

Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm ~ Located adjacent to the school office 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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Psalm 105:47 ~ Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you..

First Reading - Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 ~ Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm -Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 ~ Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of

Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord .

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 5:12

~ Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12 ~ Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon - Cf Psalm 30:17-18

~ Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

We pray for those in our Community who are sick:

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

Recently Deceased:

Derek Anselm Rego
Rodolfo Magaling; Paolo Carrer ; Josie Mateo;

Terezinha da Silva Rojanski; Carmello Pilato,

Death Anniversary: Madeline Ivy Ma-Ambong

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 V. OCIA formally RCIA ~ Rite of Welcome

- The Rite of Welcome is a parish liturgical celebration which marks a person's decision to undertake the process of becoming a Catholic. Having established a certain relationship with the Catholic community, this person now enters into a deeper period of formation. The public nature of this celebration highlights the fact that the catechumen's commitment to Christ involves a commitment to a specific community of people. The parish community in turn welcomes the catechumen and pledges its support in the weeks and months to come.

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STEWARSHIP: PARISH DONATIONS

PARISH STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PLANNED GIVING ~ 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.

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>

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE ~ Nars Lumba is stepping down from his role as Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. We thank Nars sincerely for his time, leadership, and generous service on the PPC, both as a member and as Chair.

We warmly welcome Ramon Gunesekara as the new Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council and wish him every blessing in this role.

NEW THURSDAY MORNING MASS ~ Starting this Thursday, 5 February, we will have a new Mass every Thursday at 9am in the church. Each week, a class from St Luke's Catholic College will join us for the parish Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ~ Children's Liturgy will resume on the weekend of 7/8 February during the Saturday 5:30pm Mass and Sunday 10am Mass at the school theatre area. Children from Kindy to Year 4 are invited to participate.

WALKING WITH CHRIST BIBLE GROUP ~ The Walking with Christ Bible Group will resume in the old parish office starting Thursday, 5 February, at 7.00pm. Together, we will reflect on and explore the Sunday Gospel, and all are welcome to attend.

RETURN OF PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY ~ If you still have palms from last year, please bring them back to the church so they can be prepared for Ash Wednesday on 18 February. Collection baskets are located in the church entrance.

PIETY STALL – 2026 RESOURCES AVAILABLE ~ A range of 2026 spiritual resources is now available from the Piety Stall, including the Daily Mass Book, Break Open the Word, and God's Word Daily Reflections. These are excellent resources to support daily prayer, reflection, and a deeper engagement with the Scriptures throughout the year.



HOLY SPIRIT MISSION 2026 ~ The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Parramatta Diocese invites you to their Holy Spirit Mission 2026. Saturday 21st February 2026 from 12.00pm to 5.00pm. Our Lady Queen of Peace Greystanes (School Camilleri Hall) 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes.



ANNUAL DIOCESAN RED MASS: 3 FEBRUARY ~ Fr Robert Riedling, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, cordially invites members of the judiciary and legal community, public service officials, law students and their families to the annual Red Mass. Join us on Tuesday 3 February at 7pm, refreshments will be served following the Mass. Please RSVP by Friday 30 January to enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au or call (02) 8839 8400.

ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA MEMORIAL MASS & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION: 8 FEBRUARY ~ You are warmly invited to the annual St Josephine Bakhita Memorial Mass & Community Celebration on Sunday 8 February at 12:30pm at St Patrick's Church, MQOF Parish, Blacktown. The South-Sudanese and Sudanese Catholic Community, supported by the Mission Enhancement Team, will celebrate their national patron saint, share their spirituality, culture and cuisine, and pray for the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. All are welcome to attend.

ROSARY MAKING WORKSHOP: 9 FEBRUARY ~ Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on Monday 9 February at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

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 & 5.30pm.

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 in the parish office 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).

YOUTH MINISTRY:

Every 2nd Friday. 6.30pm Mass followed by the youth program at 7pm in St Luke's Hub.
Next Youth Program: 13th February 2026

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: 7th & 8th February 2026.

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: 5th February. 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

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