



St Luke's
CATHOLIC PARISH
MARSDEN PARK



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

25TH JANUARY 2026

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



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

Sunday Connection....

Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus' public ministry begins after his baptism by John the Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today's Gospel places Jesus' ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus called his first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know him? Had they heard him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with his work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people's diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus' ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us. © 2026 Loyola Press. All rights reserved.

Family Connection....

Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus. Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In Matthew 8:14-15 for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a fever. Matthew 20:20-28 relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships. Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be "fishers of men" even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life. Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today's Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.

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AUSTRALIA DAY MASS

Australia Day Mass will be celebrated at 9am in the church on Monday, 26 January. All welcome to attend.



CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr Gayan Thamel.

Email: gayan.thamel@parracatholic.org

Parish Secretary: Gerald "Ged" Oblea

Phone: (02) 7261-0246.

Mobile: 0422 724 160.

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 ~ 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



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MARSDEN PARK

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 95:1,6 ~ O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading - Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3 ~ In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm -Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1
(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

~ I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these

slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

Gospel Acclamation - Matthew 4:23 ~ Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 4:12-17 ~ Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

Communion Antiphon - Cf Psalm 33:6 ~ Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUEST

We pray for those in our Community who are sick:

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

Recently Deceased: Rodolfo Magaling; Paolo Carrer; Josie Mateo;
Terezinha da Silva Rojanski; Carmello Pilato,
Carmelita Del Rosario, Aurora Borgonia, Grace Pinacate Roa.

Death Anniversary: Madeline Ivy Ma-Ambong

May They Rest In Peace

Wedding Anniversary: Gerald & Samantha Oblea (10 Years)

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.

WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO?

Part V. OCIA formally RCIA

~ Enquiry - When two people meet each other for the first time there is usually a 'getting to know you' period before the relationship proceeds to a deeper level. The initial stage of the O.C.I.A. - the period of Enquiry - is a bit like that. As a person expresses initial interest in the Catholic community, parishioners respond to the enquirer's questions and share something of their own experience of being Catholic. No formal commitment is called for at this stage. It is a time of initial exploration as the enquirer, with the help of the parish community, decides whether he/she will undertake the journey towards baptism and full communion with the Catholic Church.

STEWARDSHIP: 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

NEW THURSDAY MORNING MASS ~ Starting 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.

BLESSING OF CANDLES ~ On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the Church blesses candles, celebrating Jesus as the Light of the World. Parishioners are invited to bring their candles to be blessed on the weekend of 31st January / 1st February. Please leave your candles in front of the altar, and they will be blessed during the Mass.

GED ON ANNUAL LEAVE - For 2 weeks from 19th Jan 2026.

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.

WALKING WITH CHRIST BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ We will be taking a break for the month of January. We will resume our fortnightly sessions on Thursday, 5 February. Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to coming together again to continue our journey of faith and reflection on God's Word.

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.



Scan To Register



DIOCESE OF
PARRAMATTA



CELEBRATING

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

MASS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
WITH THE RITE OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

At the conclusion of Mass, a special blessing will be given
for all carers and those who minister to the sick.

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 11AM 2026

Main Celebrant: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. DD.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church,
51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown

Refreshments available following Mass. For catering purposes, RSVP to:
ofw@parracatholic.org | 0460 037 795

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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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.
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